

Arms follow killings in Salvador

The people of San Antonio Abad, a slum on the edge of Salvador, have been talking about men who wear army uniforms and who come to slaughter them in the early hours. On their last visit to the slum 19 civilians were killed. Only hours later, in Washington, it was announced that the United States is to send \$55m (£29.4m) worth of emergency military equipment to El Salvador.

Theatres to cut back

Arts Council subsidies this year for the four national theatres, opera and ballet companies, will average 10 per cent, which is below the inflation level. The companies said they would have to cut back on productions and repertory.

S Africa press curb scheme

Control of journalists through compulsory registration is proposed in a report tabled in South Africa's Parliament. There would be provision for "striking off" the register, and using the work of an unenrolled journalist would be illegal.

Israel publishes autonomy plan

Israel has officially published its proposals for a Palestinian council to administer the West Bank and Gaza. It envisages an authority with powers in 13 spheres, including finance and justice, in contrast to the Egyptian desire to see a council with legislative as well as executive functions.

Assembly plan for Ulster

The Government is planning an elected assembly for Northern Ireland which would have only advisory or consultative powers until agreement could be reached on a more devolved administration.

Hammaraskjold death claim

Moise Tshombe, the former Prime Minister of the Congo, was responsible for the death of Dag Hammarskjold, according to Francis Bodenan, who is accused of kidnapping Mr. Tshombe. Mr. Hammarskjold died in the wreckage of an aircraft in 1961 while Secretary-General of the United Nations.

£10m a week petrol 'subsidy'

The cost of a gallon of 4-star petrol in some towns has dropped below £1.50p as the price war heats up. The petrol makers, however, are counting the cost, paying almost £10m a week in support measures.



Bristol youths in court

Eight youths arrested after the fighting in St Paul's, Bristol, at the weekend appeared before Bristol magistrates. They denied possessing offensive weapons, wounding, assaulting a police sergeant, and other charges.

Botham's protest

Lord Botham, in hiring a century for England, threatened to walk off the field in protest against Indian delaying tactics in the Test match in Kanpur.

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Leading articles: SDP leadership; Long-distance footpaths
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How university cuts hurt everyone, by Randolph Quirk
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Bank joins in campaign to cut US loan rates

By David Blake, Economics Editor

Mr Gordon Richardson, the Governor of the Bank of England, last night joined in the campaign to make America cut its interest rates. In a speech to the annual dinner of the Overseas Bankers Club in London, he said that the two main consequences of American policy were causing concern throughout the world.

These were that too much of the strain of the fight against inflation was being borne by monetary policy and not enough by cuts in the public deficit. The second was that interest rates in America were likely to be very volatile. As a result, he said, foreign exchange and domestic business could be harmed.

The Governor's speech is the latest chapter in what is turning into an increasingly intense war of words between Europe and America. Last week, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Finance Ministers of France and Germany all called on the Reagan Administration to change economic policy to help the rest of the world.

Leading United States banks yesterday began raising interest rates, a move that provoked a sharp decline in share prices on Wall Street, while boosting the value of the dollar.

Dollar interest rates in Europe rose yesterday, strengthening the dollar against all European currencies. Shares on Wall Street fell sharply as two leading banks raised their prime lending rates.

The European nations want to get their interest rates down to boost jobs in their economies. But they fear that if they act alone their currencies will fall and inflation will rise.

They are thus trying to press the Americans to take part in joint action to bring interest rates down everywhere.

At the Ottawa economic summit last summer, the European leaders said that the Americans could not expect them to put up with high interest rates after Christmas.

The issue will become increasingly important as a dominant feature in preparations for the world economic summit to be held in France in June.

Mr Richardson's call for the United States to use whatever scope exists to moderate the impact overseas of its policies came as part of a call for greater currency stability. The fluctuation of the world's currency markets was now posing great dangers to world trade, he said.

Owner vanishes in lost ships mystery

By Peter Evans and Mario Modiano

Investigators from the International Maritime Bureau, London, are looking for cargo reported to have been mysteriously off-loaded from a Greek-owned ship, the Viki K, before she sailed in the Red Sea.

The Viki K's hull was insured on the London market for up to £1m. She is one of eight freighters acquired by Mr Demetrios Kavadas, the second to be lost and the rest are reported to be in trouble.

Mr Kavadas has also disappeared. He was seen at his luxurious seaside home at Glyfada, near Athens, leaving behind total debts estimated at £4m, and Mrs Kavadas says she does not know where he is.

Mr Kavadas was sentenced by a Greek court in his absence last Friday to three years' imprisonment, and fined one million drachmas (£10,000) for issuing a bogus cheque for £75,000.

The Court of Appeal is expected to give judgment this week on issues arising in a different case involving the Sarnia, the tanker scuttled by its owners to disguise the fact that they had sold its \$58m cargo of oil to the South African government. The shipowners, Oxford Shipping, have also disappeared.

The investigation into the Viki K coincides with the loss of the Elpiniki K on December 24, while taking 3,000 tons of iron rods worth more than £400,000 from Elefsis, Greece, to Alexandria. The Piraeus harbour police also want Kavadas for questioning.

The Viki K, which was carrying angle iron and plastic products to Iran, was abandoned by her crew in the Red Sea on November 2. The owner's story, which emerged during the insurers' investigation, was that the crew tried for hours to put out a fire in the engine room.

On the same day all 16 crew were picked up by the MV Elise Danube, a local coaster, and taken to the port of Eilat in Israel.

Lloyd's agent in Port Said has confirmed that at least part of the cargo was unloaded there after Mr Eric Ellen, the bureau's chief, said inquiries continued on page 2, col 1.

I was wrong to launch a Belfast firm, says De Lorean

From Christopher Thomas, New York, Feb 1

Mr John De Lorean said today he had made a serious mistake in launching his sports car company in Belfast. "We had a terrible time producing a management team because Englishmen would not work there. We are greatly underestimating the magnitude of the problems."

Among the problems was the fact that the company's premises had been fire-bombed 140 times and company executives had been fired at by snipers many times. Trying to keep a management team together under those circumstances, especially of people who are good enough to work anywhere, is difficult."

But Mr De Lorean added that he was determined to make the company survive. He was selling his ranch in California and other personal interests to inject private capital into the enterprise.

He was negotiating with several concerns in an attempt to raise private means to help the company out of its cash flow crisis. "It is impossible to continue as a Government-owned company because we have become such a political hot potato," he said. "Nobody dares touch it."

Mr De Lorean, speaking to The Times at his Park Avenue office in New York, insisted that with the right financial backing his firm could again be employing 2,700 people by the spring, when he expected car sales to pick up.

He attributed the company's problems to a number of factors; one of the worst winters in the United States that affected sales, delays by the British Government that



Boy found dead under 16 feet

Dogs were used to help 150 rescuers yesterday (above) find the thirteenth and last victim of the avalanche at Werfenweng, near Salzburg, which buried a party of 18 young West German skiers on the 4,600ft Elmau mountain. The boy, Oliver Jensen, was found under 16ft of snow. One youth who was able to struggle free after the avalanche called the rescuers who pulled out the other four survivors. Avalanches here killed about 800 people in Austria in the last 20 years.

SDP fear unequal seat deal

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Leading members of the Social Democratic Party, decided yesterday that they are getting the worst of the bargain so far in the sharing of parliamentary seats with the Liberals.

The SDP's eight-man negotiating team concluded at a 90-minute meeting at Westminster that although the spoils looked like being evenly divided in several areas, there were many others where Liberal representatives had insisted on keeping most of the plum seats for themselves.

With the possible exception of the 11 Surrey seats, there is no county where the SDP have secured or look likely to secure the lion's share. If the present pattern is repeated across the country, the SDP negotiators fear that the party's interests will be gravely damaged.

The SDP agreed only last week to resume full negotiations with their alliance partners after earlier differences. Yesterday the SDP team resolved that when they meet their Liberal opposite numbers, next week they will insist on a fair balance and swifter progress.

The SDP are also regretting their negotiators' generosity in agreeing last week that the Liberals could fight 11 out of a group of 20 west London seats.

Mr Neville Sandelson, MP, a supporter of Mr Roy Jenkins, urged last night that there should be no contest this year for the leadership of the SDP (our Political Reporter writes).

A contest, however friendly, might be exploited by others "in an attempt to stir up the same old issues which have affected the Labour Party," he said.

Leading article, page 11

Poland tense as food prices quadruple

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Feb 1

Food price increases of up to 400 per cent in Poland were marked today by go-slows in many industrial plants, compulsory closure of a number of factories and signs of extreme nervousness on the part of the authorities.

Rises in food prices, or the way in which they were announced, led to the overthrow of Mr Wladyslaw Gomulka in 1970, almost toppled his successor Mr Edward Giersek in 1976 and contributed to the rapid growth of Solidarity in 1980.

Tension this time was heightened by the violent clashes between students and police in Gdansk on Saturday night. Fresh details of the disturbances are beginning to emerge.

According to an independent account, the militia were relatively restrained at first, but when the demonstrators grouped in the main square, near the party headquarters, the scene of great violence in 1970, the militia and riot police moved in with considerable force, using rubber truncheons. The demonstrators responded with bricks and bottles.

The official Ministry of Interior communiqué said that 205 people had been detained and 14 civilians and eight policemen injured. Independent accounts put the figure higher, talking of forty to fifty injured.

The official media have presented the Gdansk incident with a degree of candour but they have included clear warnings. First, the blame has been placed on the United States Administration and its Solidarity Day which coincided with the Saturday protest.

Second, implicit in this commentary, and one in Trybuna, Ludu was the signal to the rest of the country not to imitate Gdansk, otherwise the strictest martial law regulations would be restored.

The authorities have not been taking any risks. The Gdansk shipyards have been closed from today: all workers have been sent on two weeks' holiday, officially because of the death of orders.

This, and not the United States Solidarity Day, was the most likely explanation for the timing of the Gdansk protest. It was the last opportunity to appeal to the collective work-force.

Early this morning the Ursus tractor factory in Warsaw was also shut and factory officials said that repairs were being carried out. Other probable strike targets have remained shut today, though, from official reports it seems that the mines were working normally.

Unofficial reports reaching Warsaw indicated that planned go-slows in cities such as Wroclaw and Lodz had been carried out. It is extremely difficult to police this form of industrial action though in the long run it seems to be unpopular with workers who are paid on piece rate.

The price rises seemed to have made some impact on the queues in front of meat shops. The dangerous period for the authorities—certainly in their own estimation—will be later this week when students return to universities.

Meanwhile, the Episcopate has sent a letter to the Government complaining that it was not allowed to give mass to Mr Lech Walesa, the interned Solidarity leader.

Mr Edward Giersek, a former Politburo member and a First Secretary of Katowice, died of a heart attack on Saturday, aged 58, according to the state's official notice in Trybuna Ludu.

Other Polish news, page 6

New rail peace move by Murray

By a Staff Reporter

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the RMT, last night made another attempt to find a basis for a peace formula to end the train drivers' dispute when he spent three hours with the executives of the drivers' union.

There was little indication from Mr Murray or officials of the Association of Railwaymen, Leaders, Regulators and Engineers (Asire) of what transpired, but observers believed that Mr Murray was trying to persuade the union to participate in a "commission" of inquiry.

Another plea for the two sides to go to arbitration came from Mr Sidney Weighell, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, who said on BBC Radio 4 that the British Rail and Asire were both "dig in about ten feet deep". The only solution was arbitration. "But neither will go."

He attacked the Labour Party's support for Asire as "an abuse of authority".

"When you make agreements you cannot pick and choose which of them to apply," Mr Weighell said.

Sir John Boyd, general secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, also called on British Rail and Asire to go to arbitration.

The commission of inquiry is the idea of Mr Pat Lowry, chairman of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas), and the other two rail unions, the National Union of Railwaymen and the Asire, have already agreed to take part in it.

The Asire executive might decide today whether to co-operate.

The executive is also due to discuss plans for industrial action next week and whether to carry out a recent formula of Sunday strikes followed by two-day stoppages on Wednesday and Thursday.

The BR board is also due to meet today and it is thought that Asire will not escalate the action unless the management signals a hardening of attitudes in this dispute.

Mr Murray's meeting with the Asire executives came as local management on Southern Region decided not to pay guards for the weekend and to cancel the strike in protest at Sunday's lay-off.

Southern Region trains were expected to be back to normal at midnight as striking guards at Brighton returned to work. BR said last night.

About 25 trains were cancelled during the evening rush hour because of the guards' action.

Some angry commuters hit back at the walk-out by guards at Brighton in the morning when they showed and swore at railway staff.

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FO falls foul of the testy general

From David Watts, Manila, Feb 1

Lord Carrington's visit to the Philippines began with a bizarre diplomatic dispute today which threatened to sour the trip barely before it had started.

The Foreign Secretary, arriving at the home of General Carlos Romulo, the veteran Filipino Minister, complimented him on his beautiful home and soon found himself trying to defend himself against complaints that he had allowed Filipino hospitality to sway him at the residence of the Ambassador rather than the official guest house.

Lord Carrington and the official party were shaken by General Romulo's criticism of the Foreign Secretary's visit to the Philippines. Telling Lord Carrington that he was the seventh foreign minister to be entertained in his 14 years of office General Romulo said down on the veranda overlooking the lush garden in exclusive Forbes Park and declared: "You are the only foreign minister to stay at your embassy. All the others have stayed at our official guest house, the Malacanang Palace."

The Foreign Secretary, taken aback, recovered quickly to say: "As you know, General, on these trips a foreign minister is just a guest to be posted by his officials."

"I'm very sorry that there was a mistake..." said Lord Carrington.

Then I take it it is your Ambassador who is critical of these trips a foreign minister is just a guest to be posted by his officials."

General Romulo wagging his finger at Mr Michael Morgan, the unfortunate British Ambassador, who then reminded General Romulo that they had both been in the Philippines for 12 years. Carrington should stay in the residence only the previous Thursday. The General recalled no such agreement.

Back in the first issue an official spokesman said: "I'm very sorry. The last thing I would want to do would be to be discourteous or to seem discourteous in the face of your kind invitation and hospitality."

But the 83-year-old General gave no answer. "That was what I was saying," said with an air of finality he declared: "Now we have an official spokesman and nobody wants to stay at the guest house anyway. You recall when Princess Margaret stayed here that water was not working and she moved out after a day."

The Foreign Secretary was quick to make amends. Noting that both the Union Jack and the flag of the Philippines had been flying from Lord Carrington's Royal Air Force VC-10 when he arrived, General said: "That was the first time that that was ever done by any visiting Britisher. That's more proper the British are. You can't bear the British when it comes to property, protocol and civility."



Diary

At the Royal Festival Hall, Monday 8 February 8.00

SEITEN
Mr Goodwin
First Concert
CHOPIN
Piano Concerto No. 2
BRILL
Symphonies Nos. 1 and 2
Newell Marchmont, Piano
Newell Marchmont, Conductor
£20.50 £10.50 £4.50
£2.50 £1.50 £0.50
Sponsored by Royal Festival Hall
Friday 19 February 8.00

GRAHAM
Double Concerto
TCHAIKOVSKY
Symphony No. 5
Olga Kuznetsov, Violin
Natalia Gouman, Cello
Vladimir Svetlanov, Conductor
£20.50 £10.50 £4.50
£2.50 £1.50 £0.50
Sponsored by Royal Festival Hall

Vodka in Malvern
More recently Mr Svetlanov's interpretation of Elgar has been the subject of much praise. He has been the opportunity of hearing a work of Vaughan Williams of Elgar interpreted by a German, Italian or Russian, conducted. Properly we are awarded by an insight to the work which often a much greater understanding is granted. On Tuesday 22nd February, Vaughan Williams' conducts the Orchestra in Elgar's 2nd Symphony, preceded by a performance of Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto with Valery Kuznetsov.

Briffly...
Rella Dvorkin, who won the Chopin Prize in Warsaw, will be playing Elgar's 2nd Piano Concerto next Monday. This is an opportunity to hear a pianist regarded as one of the greatest living exponents of Chopin's work when the Orchestra recorded Chopin's 1st Concerto last year. Full concert details in following column.

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Elgar's 2nd Piano Concerto
£20.50 £10.50 £4.50
£2.50 £1.50 £0.50
Sponsored by Royal Festival Hall

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Cuts force lab for rare blood tests to close

By Annabel Ferryman, Health Services Correspondent

A research laboratory with an international reputation, which has developed complicated techniques for diagnosing blood disorders, is faced with closure because of government cuts.

The laboratory, which is part of Westminster Hospital Medical School, London, is run by Professor David Matthews, who has been asked to retire early, and by Dr John Linnell, who is being made redundant. It is due to close on March 31 to save about £40,000 a year.

Professor Matthews says it is the only centre in the world which possesses the technique for separating and measuring different forms of vitamin B12 in the blood.

A low level of vitamin B12, which leads to pernicious anaemia, is easy to establish by simple blood tests, but the tests carried out at the Westminster establish the exact levels of different forms of vitamin B12.

Professor Matthews believes that the lack of certain types of the vitamin often goes undiagnosed and that babies might be dying of such disorders without the cause being known.

In mild cases the disorder results in mild mental handicap, but in severe cases it can lead to serious anaemia, crippling, and death.

Judge praises SPG for 'manly restraint' at riot

By Nicholas Timmins

A judge praised members of the Special Patrol Group yesterday for their bravery, devotion to duty, and "manly restraint" in causing relatively minor injuries to young black arrested during the Brixton riots last year, in a struggle that the defendant had described as a matter of life and death.

Judge Lord Dunboynne, passing sentence at the Inner London Crown Court, also criticized the way the defence had been conducted, and provided guidance for the future. He said that the jury's verdict in the case of Mr. Sighat Kadri, the defence counsel, who is joint chairman of the Society of Black Lawyers.

Mr. Kadri and the judge had repeatedly clashed during the three-day trial, and at one point the judge, in the jury's absence, formally cautioned Mr. Kadri.

Yesterday the judge said there had been only two issues in the case. The defence, however, had been conducted in such a way that the trial had become, in his view, at least twice as long as necessary or desirable in the interests of justice to any one.

Anthony Amos, aged 20, of Roupell Estate, Brixton, was acquitted on Friday of a charge of possessing a 10-2 majority verdict of possessing an offensive weapon, a brick.

During his arrest he bit an SPG officer's finger to the bone. Mr. Amos claimed that

VAT MAN WINS AGE RULING

By Kenneth Gosling

A fire-eating scene from an Italian film shown on BBC television may have been copied by a gang of youths who attacked a boy in Liverpool at the weekend.

The theory is being investigated by Merseyside police who are searching for the attackers of Donald Curlett, aged 15, of Alfonso Road, Kirkdale, Liverpool. One of three youths is said to have spat petrol into his face while a second threw a lit match at him.

The boy fell to the ground with his face and hair burning. He managed to smother the flames with his hands and was treated in hospital. Merseyside police said yesterday they were treating the attack as a serious assault.

The police said they understood a similar attack was shown on a film review programme. The only recent film depicting anything at all similar was the *Film International* presentation on BBC 2 on January 23 of *Salto nel Vuoto* (Leap into the Void).

In it, one of the members of a troupe of performers takes a mouthful of paraffin, spits it out and lights it while someone says, "Be very careful, you can get burnt like that."

A BBC official said yesterday that she doubted whether the gang involved would have been watching the film, which was presented with English subtitles. It was described as "fairly heavy going". They could equally well have got the idea for the attack from seeing fire-eaters on other programmes or in circuses, she said.

The boy told the police that at first he thought water was being spat at him. "But the next thing I knew flames were coming from my face. I burnt my hands putting the flames out. When I touched my face bits of skin started falling off."

The police are looking for three youths aged about 15.

Mr. Justice Browne-Wilkinson, presiding, said the statistical evidence presented by the Civil Service Commission supported Mr. Perera's evidence.

"The fact that a substantial number of coloureds are adult immigrants suggests that the statistical evidence, such as it is, probably gives a correct picture," the judge said.

The tribunal held that Mr. Perera had proved indirect discrimination over his application to become an administrative trainee, and was entitled to compensation, to be assessed later.

But the court ruled against his complaints of racial discrimination over other unsuccessful attempts for promotion. In one of those he was assessed as unsuitable and "never to be seen again".

Wounded PC's wife says he will go back

The wife of Police Constable Ian Bennett said yesterday that she was against his returning to his beat as a community policeman in the St Paul's area of Bristol where he was injured in a gang attack at the weekend, although she was sure he would want to go back as soon as possible.

Mrs. Caroline Bennett, aged 38, was speaking after visiting her husband in Bristol Royal Infirmary, where he is being treated for eye and jaw injuries, a fractured skull and a broken nose. She described the injuries as horrific.

A surgeon had told her yesterday that he thought her husband's sight would be saved. The police believe PC Bennett, aged 36, a father of two, was hit on the head by a flying bottle when a mob attacked him and Police Constable Nigel Strachan.

Mrs. Bennett is convinced that her husband will go straight back to St Paul's where he has served for 11 years. "I feel absolutely terrible about him wanting to go back, but I know that is all he wants to do."

She added: "All I can pray for is that if this had been the cost, perhaps that will be the end to it. I would like him to have a less dangerous job. But I am afraid I know that is all he wants to do. He loves the area, the job, and the large majority of people who live there."

PC Bennett was one of the first constables to return to foot patrol after the St Paul's riots in April, 1980, which caused damage estimated at £1m. Senior Avon and Somerset police officers described him as an extremely popular officer, who had worked exceptionally hard to involve himself in the community.

When he was hit by the bottle on Saturday night, PC Bennett lay on the ground for two or three minutes before being rescued by police reinforcements with protective gear and riot shields. It will be some days before surgeons are certain that his badly bruised right eye can be saved.

He also claims damages from the Manchester-based United Transport Union in a contested case.

Mr. Stevenson, who is conducting his own case, said that in 1977 the Court of Appeal upheld a Chancery Court decision that he should get his job back.

"Afterwards I was constantly harassed by senior police officers in this city," he said. "I asked for protection during this trial and afterwards, I ask that none of my witnesses be arrested or taken in for examination during this trial. They may be in some peril."

Mr. Stevenson said he had been convicted of misusing a union credit card to obtain petrol, and a car insurance licence, which he had denied, and was conditionally discharged.

The hearing continues today.

Help for children

The British National Oil Corporation is to sponsor, at the cost of £8,500, an extra inspector to work in Glasgow for the Royal Scottish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Mr. Delwyn Williams, Conservative MP for Montgomery and a solicitor, was alleged at Birmingham High Court yesterday to have adopted a cavalier approach to the case of a client. It was claimed that he failed adequately to carry out his duties and on two occasions acted contrary to them.

Mr. Colin Biffen, aged 48, of Tamworth Mill, Aston on Clun, Shropshire, is claiming damages from Mr. Williams, who at the time of the transaction between them in 1975 was practising in Walspool. Mr. Biffen alleged that Mr. Williams was negligent while acting in the purchase of a plot of land and the building of a house in the village of Edgton, near Craven Arms, Shropshire.

Mr. Biffen had decided

early in 1975 to buy a plot of land in Edgton and build a house. But difficulties arose over the title of the land and by the middle of 1975 Mr. Biffen had decided to terminate the contracts to buy the land and to build a house. Mr. Williams, however, continued to urge him to take a different course and building work started.

Mr. Biffen said that he and his wife wanted to withdraw from the transaction, but were put under pressure by the builder and Mr. Williams to allow the former to go on site. By September, 1975, he had paid £3,446 and later another £4,000 was demanded.

He told Mr. Williams the claim ought to be defended.

Mr. David Foskett, for Mr. Biffen, said: "Behind this litigation lie two disputes over the purchase of land, and one building dispute."

Mr. Biffen was involved in two of the disputes.

Mr. Foskett said it was alleged that as a result of Mr. Williams' failure to carry out his client's instructions, and on two occasions his acting contrary to them, Mr. Biffen's position in one case was destroyed and in another seriously undermined.

Mr. Biffen had been caused serious financial loss and there has been distress and anxiety for himself and his family over several years. Mr. Foskett said that Mr. Williams had adopted a cavalier approach to the case.

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Prebendary Michael Baughan, the next Bishop of Chester, outside Church House, London yesterday with his wife, Myrtle, and children, from left, Andrew, Rachel and Philip (Diary, page 10.)

Court claim by ousted union man

From Our Correspondent Manchester

A man involved in an eight-year battle with his union yesterday claimed he had been harassed by senior police officers.

Mr. John Stevenson, aged 56, of Barlow Moor Road, Chorlton, Manchester, is asking for a High Court declaration in Manchester that his second dismissal as an area official of the union was contrary to natural justice.

He also claims damages from the Manchester-based United Transport Union in a contested case.

Mr. Stevenson, who is conducting his own case, said that in 1977 the Court of Appeal upheld a Chancery Court decision that he should get his job back.

"Afterwards I was constantly harassed by senior police officers in this city," he said. "I asked for protection during this trial and afterwards, I ask that none of my witnesses be arrested or taken in for examination during this trial. They may be in some peril."

Mr. Stevenson said he had been convicted of misusing a union credit card to obtain petrol, and a car insurance licence, which he had denied, and was conditionally discharged.

The hearing continues today.

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The British National Oil Corporation is to sponsor, at the cost of £8,500, an extra inspector to work in Glasgow for the Royal Scottish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

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Mr. Colin Biffen, aged 48, of Tamworth Mill, Aston on Clun, Shropshire, is claiming damages from Mr. Williams, who at the time of the transaction between them in 1975 was practising in Walspool. Mr. Biffen alleged that Mr. Williams was negligent while acting in the purchase of a plot of land and the building of a house in the village of Edgton, near Craven Arms, Shropshire.

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Wanted: 180 health volunteers Common cold drug hopes

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The first successful use of interferon, the substance that occurs naturally in the body in tiny amounts and which leapt to prominence three years ago as a potential wonder drug, appears to be as a treatment for the common cold.

Following laboratory tests, doctors at the Common Cold Research Unit of the Medical Research Council, in Salisbury, are seeking 180 healthy people for extended clinical trials.

Over the past 36 years the research unit has investigated many possible drugs for preventing colds; and more than 10 years ago, it did some limited studies with interferon. But it is only in the past two years that the agent has become available in any quantity. Before that, the world production was about 400 milligrams (0.014 ounces) a year, and that was extracted from about 45,000 litres of serum from blood donors.

The main source was the public health laboratory in Helsinki, where Dr. Karl Cantell perfected a brilliant but elaborate method for harvesting samples from human blood. The process is intricate because an individual's blood normally contains only a few parts per million, and the substance must be purified if it is to be used as a drug extract.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Cycle chaos planned in fares fight

A mass demonstration by cyclist in central London is being planned as part of a campaign to save the Greater London Council's policy of cheap public transport fares.

The campaign, organized through local groups and community centres around London, was launched yesterday. The organizers hope that the "bike-in" by commuters will cause traffic chaos, to emphasize the need for the GLC's fares scheme, declared illegal by the Law Lords, to continue.

Other plans for the new campaign, bringing together passengers and London Transport workers, include picketing, the distribution of leaflets, posters and stickers.

The Fare Fight Campaign was launched in London in the presence of Mr. Frank Dobson, Labour MP for Camden, Holborn and St. Pancras, South, and Mr. Martin Stevens, Conservative MP for Hammersmith, Fulham.

The organizers said employees at one bus depot in Chalk Farm, north London, had decided not to collect the increased fares which come into effect on March 21, but to maintain them at present levels.

Youth cut brake cables of car

A youth cut the brake cables of a woman's car and watched as it careered down the ramp of a car park, stopping just short of crossing traffic, Glasgow Sheriff Court was told yesterday.

Then Gregory Cummings, aged 18, of Maxwell Drive, Pollokshaws, Glasgow, who had cut through the brake pipe, offered to repair the car. He was remanded in custody for reports after admitting cutting the cable and attempting to defraud the woman of £5 for the repair.

Heathrow staff threaten strike

Convention on ship salvage to be revised

COMMONS

The preliminary inquiry into the Penlee lifeboat disaster is expected to be completed by the end of this month, Mr. Ian Spratt, Under-Secretary of State for Trade, said at a question time in the Commons.

Sir William van Straubenzee (Wokingham, C) asked what consideration the Department of Trade had given to the problems of current contract practice with regard to the salvage of stricken ships.

Mr. Spratt: I note the wide use made of the Lloyd's standard form of salvage agreement under which remuneration is determined after the salvage operation by agreement or arbitration. The Minister of the preliminary to rapid action.

I keep under review whether there are lessons to be learned from individual incidents. The United Kingdom delegation to IMCO will play its full part in the coming revision of the 1970 Brussels convention on salvage.

Sir William van Straubenzee: I am interested in the merits of the recent and particularly tragic case involving the loss of the entire crew who went to the rescue.

There is any justification for the view that delay in settling the salvage terms was one of the

causes, possibly something on the lines of mandatory provisions which would come into effect on certain basic conditions being satisfied, might be something to be considered in the revision of which we spoke.

Mr. Spratt: We will be willing to look at any lessons which we could learn from the inquiry currently being carried out by the RNLI and my department and the Government of the Republic of Ireland, but traditional mariners' law believes that the ship's master is the best person to decide whether his ship is in danger.

Mr. John Prescott (Kingston upon Hull, East, Lab): For a successful tow of the stricken vessel adequate manning is required. Has he seen the Minister of Transport's statement from Ireland that manning levels in Ireland are the same as Britain's?

Mr. Spratt: I read the newspaper reports to which he refers and will consider that in the light of the Irish Government's report IMCO will play its full part in the coming revision of the 1970 Brussels convention on salvage.

Mr. David Gammans (Dewsbury, SDP): What sort of time scale does he envisage? How soon will it be before a convention is signed?

Mr. Spratt: On the IMCO agreement, there is to be a meeting in 1984. I believe there are one or two other things that have to be settled before then.



Van Straubenzee: Delays

Costain: Special Rules

requiring a fair amount of work by IMCO, but I hope that it will be at the next diplomatic conference, 1984-85.

Sir Albert Costain (Poleton, Devon, C): This is particularly important in areas of the English Channel and to the south-east of Wales where we have one of the highest concentrations of shipping in the world. Would it be possible to make special rules apply to ships in this narrow waterway?

Mr. Spratt: He is right about the extreme danger of the English Channel and potentially dangerous nature of the English Channel. When the preliminary inquiry is completed

I will look at what he suggests in the light of what the inquiry reveals.

Mr. Kenneth Woolmer, an Opposition spokesman on trade (Bartley and Morley, Lab): On the question of the United States Star Line, a company which has been operating in the Channel for many years, when does he expect the preliminary inquiry to report? Will he give an assurance that he will look at the call for a proper public inquiry to investigate the many doubts expressed so far?

Mr. Spratt: I give that assurance. I hope and expect that the preliminary inquiry will be completed by the end of this month.

Building society practice disliked by minister

INSURANCE

The practice of some building societies in forcing their property holders to insure their property with a particular company, which might not give best value, was wrong, Mrs. Sally Oppenheim, Minister of Consumer Affairs, said.

She stated that she would strongly support the Director General of Fair Trading in any attempt to end the practice. Asked whether the review of the Building Societies Association had yet been completed, she said some of the associations were still the subject of discussion. It was a matter for the Director General of Fair Trading.

Mr. Robin Squire (Hornchurch, C) asked if she was satisfied with the monitoring of Building Societies Association/Office of Fair Trading agreements which had been made in the past, in particular the choice of insurance company which in some cases did not grant.

Would she agree with the National Consumer Council report which said that in practice very few members have any influence on the way their own building society operates? Mrs. Oppenheim: I have a candid answer of sympathy with his first point. I hope the practice he referred to, the nomination of insurance companies, has now stopped and for all.

Following discussions last year, the Director of Fair Trading and the Building Societies Association have said

the association no longer recommends borrowers to insure their property through an agent of the building society.

The Director General has said he is satisfied that if the building societies follow the recommendations on freedom of choice of insurance companies, the situation will no longer occur. It is being carefully monitored.

Mr. Kenneth Weetch (Ipswich, Lab): Many of these restrictive practices arise from the fact that building societies are not democratic bodies. Many of these boards — the Anglia being a flagrant example — seek to prevent a blood coming on to their boards.

Mrs. Oppenheim: Self-perpetuating, anti-democratic organizations do not have a place in my good books. If he has a particular practice in mind, I am sure this is a serious point he is making — perhaps he will draw it to the attention of the Director General. I would also be glad to see a copy of it.

Mr. Toby Jessel (Richmond upon Thames, Wicks, Lab): Some building societies are not complying with the recommendation of their association. It is utterly wrong that a person who has a mortgage should be forced by a building society to insure his house with a particular company, which may not give the best value possible.

Will she strongly support any attempt by the Director General to ensure that the practice stopped once and for all?

Mrs. Oppenheim: Yes, it is wrong. The Director General of Fair Trading, the Building Societies Association have said

London bid for trade mark office

Britain could succeed in winning the site of the EEC trade mark office, which is to be moved from London to the location, Mr. Reginald Eyre, Under-Secretary of State for Trade, said yesterday.

The Bill, which has been drawn up by the Lord Chancellor's department in consultation with the Law Society, has the widespread backing of the legal profession.

It will put what has been a voluntary and piecemeal system on to a more uniform basis and standardize criteria about who receives help from the duty solicitors.

It does not make it compulsory for duty solicitor schemes to be set up in all magistrates' courts. But the Law Society said: "One object is to put pressure on the courts and police who have not liked the idea."

There are at present duty solicitor schemes in 130 magistrates' courts. They have grown up in a piecemeal fashion in the last decade and

Cabinet sets out to counter CND 'distortions'

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Government yesterday launched a new drive to counter what it regards as misleading propaganda about its defence policies by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

Ministers held a briefing session at Conservative Central Office for about ninety members of the party's speaking panels from all over Britain advising them on how to reply to the arguments of the unilateralists, and to present the Government's stance on arms control and multilateral disarmament.

The Government's campaign is in response to what it sees as growing public demands for quick progress on arms control agreements.

The workers, who included many prospective parliamentarians, were told by Mr. Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, of the danger when people, tempted by their own anxieties, turned to unilateralism.

"The silliest remark in this whole discussion was that a unilateralist was a mutilated man, or a man who is a real realist, someone who ignores the real world and whose policy, if adopted, would lead to a multilateral disarmament to failure."

Mr. Peter Blaker, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, said that people's search for the truth about the Government's policies of

deterrence and disarmament had not been helped by misleading statements of some leaders of the unilateralist movement.

He attacked as grossly irresponsible and CND allegation in a leaflet entitled *Nuclear War and You* that the Government had a policy of possible surprise attack on the Soviet Union. Although the CND had since withdrawn that allegation, they should withdraw the whole leaflet, which contained other errors.

"The Government's defence policy is to prevent war — any war — by making it clear to any possible aggressor that he would stand to lose more than he would gain," Mr. Blaker explained.

Recent events in Poland had given added weight to the policy of deterrence and disarmament by negotiation.

"They have shown the shallowness of the claim that the unilateralist campaign in the West has encouraged a peaceful movement of peace."

Yesterday's meeting coincided with the publication of a Conservative Political Centre pamphlet, *Defending the Peace*, by David Trippier, Conservative MP for Rossendale, in which he suggests that the message of the Government's defence policies has not got across.

Defending the Peace (CPO, 22 Smith Square, London SW1, 22)

Legal aid Bill for duty solicitors in courts

By Frances Gibb

A Legal Aid Bill which provides for a duty solicitor in magistrates' courts and for an overhaul of the way criminal legal aid is administered, published by the Government yesterday.

The Bill, which has been drawn up by the Lord Chancellor's department in consultation with the Law Society, has the widespread backing of the legal profession.

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SUICIDE VERDICT ON EX-WIFE

The divorced wife of Robert Conquest, the American author, killed herself with a large dose of overdose because she never recovered from the break-up of their marriage, an inquest heard yesterday.

Titania Conquest, aged 61, who was born in Bulgaria, had been a successful actress and a well-known figure in the literary world.

She was found dead at her home in Ravensden Avenue, Finchley, north London, before Christmas after swallowing a large quantity of tranquillizers and anti-depressant drugs.

Mrs. Eleanor Macintosh, a lifelong friend of Titania, told the inquest: "She suffered a mental breakdown following her divorce and never got over it. The last time I saw her alive she was very disturbed and talked of going into a mental home for good."

The coroner recorded a verdict of suicide.

Mr. Conquest, aged 64, was educated at Oxford and was literary editor of *The Spectator* in the early 1960s.

TEENAGERS ACCUSED OF KILLING

From Our Correspondent Nottingham

The killers of a widow aged 70 were her neighbours, court was told yesterday. Three teenage brothers, Mark, Tony, and Martin Cooper, crept into the house next door through the false roof in the middle of the night, Mr. Colin Colston, QC, for the prosecution, said at Nottingham Crown Court.

Mr. Colston said that the three boys, aged 15, 17, and 19, were found in the house after the murder.

The brothers stole £5.84 in cash, a portable radio, two purses and two keys, he added.

They returned to their own home the way they had come. Later, it was alleged, two of them returned to open Mrs. Barnes's back door and window to divert suspicion from themselves.

The Cooper brothers, now of All Saints Street, Nottingham, were charged with the murder of Mrs. Barnes, 70, and with burglary. The case continues today.

Leeds 'fixed' match

Gary Sprake, the former Leeds goalkeeper, alleged in the High Court yesterday that he had been offered £10,000 to "fix" an opposing team player.

Mr. Sprake, aged 38, now retired from soccer and living in Solihull, said the incident occurred at the end of the 1971 season in a home game against Nottingham Forest.

Leeds needed a good win to snatch the League championship from Arsenal. Leeds won 2-0, but still failed to take the championship.

Mr. Sprake was giving evidence on the fifth day of a trial in which he is accused of libel damages claim by Mr. Bremner, now manager of Doncaster Rovers, over a front page article in the *Sunday People* in September, 1977, naming Mr. Bremner as a central figure in an alleged football bribery scandal.

Mr. Bremner is suing Odhams Newspapers and Danny Hegan, former Wolverhampton Wanderers player, who made accusations in the article. Both deny libel and say the allegations were true.

Mr. Sprake told the jury that before the Leeds versus Notts Forest match in May, 1971, Mr. Revie told him that he was sending Mr. Bremner to see Donnie Fraser, an opposition team member. "To get the right result," Mr. Sprake said he told Mr. Bremner.

Mr. Sprake said: "He came back and said he had seen Donnie and it would be OK from what I can remember."

In cross-examination, Mr. Patrick Milmo, for Mr. Bremner, said Allan Clark, Johnny Giles and Jack Charlton would all have been present at the Leeds team talk, yet they said they heard no word of match-fixing on that day.

Mr. Sprake denied that he bore a grievance against Leeds and Mr. Revie because his career had declined.

The case continues today.

Makers to get swifter approvals

STANDARDS

There had been a considerable improvement in the processing of specifications for approval submitted to the Quality Assurance and Standards Division of the Department of Trade, Mrs. Sally Oppenheim, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, said during questions.

Miss Betty Boothroyd (West Bromwich West, Lab) had asked the Secretary of State for Trade to increase the recruitment to the division with the object of enabling British manufacturers submitting specifications and designs to obtain final approval within six months.

Mrs. Sally Oppenheim: The numbers of engineering posts in the National Weights and Measures Laboratory of the division have already been increased with the aim of reaching a decision on new designs of weighing or measuring equipment within a few months of submission.

Following a shortage of engineers which led to delays, recruiting to fill the extra posts has been pressed vigorously over the past two-and-a-half years and as a result I hope that the last post will be filled shortly. Furthermore, new examination procedures agreed with manufacturers were introduced on January 1. Among other things they will help to speed up the approval process.

Miss Boothroyd: A delay of two years before a Government department could examine a specification submitted by industry was an indictment on the

proper function of that department. Further, such delays have been having adverse effects on British manufacturing industry with losses of productivity, export markets, and so on.

She said that the manufacturing sector that any submitted specification for approval will have to wait longer than six months before they get an indication of their acceptance.

Mr. Oppenheim: The case she referred to me which took two years was not by any means a trivial one. The record now shows there is a considerable improvement and there is no indictment of the department in the time she brought to my attention.

There were 21 cases waiting examination or actually under examination for final approval between January and June 1981, and only five between July and December 1981, so already in the past year there has been a noted improvement which I hope will continue.

Government sticking to sale of BA

It remained Government policy to dispose of British Airways as soon as practicable but as a going and viable concern, Mr. Ian Spratt, Under-Secretary of State for Trade, said.

Mr. Bowen Wells (Barnford and Central, C) had asked if in formulating policy towards aviation the minister would take account specifically to improve and protect the position of British Airways.

Mr. Spratt: I do not intend to protect BA from the need to operate competitively. In formulating civil aviation policy, the Government will continue to give due weight to the interests of BA, as to those of other British airlines.

Mr. Wells: Would he list the steps he proposes to take to return BA to profitability, so that it can be sold as a viable, going concern before the end of this Parliament?

Mr. Spratt: I intend to take few steps. The Government's policy is to turn round the profits of BA as my full encouragement. I congratulate Sir John King and his ways on the trenchant and robust measures they are taking.

Mr. Kenneth Woolmer, an Opposition spokesman on trade (Bartley and Morley, Lab): Can he give an assurance that there will be no more stripping of profitable BA routes to tempt other airlines?

Before taking a further decision on BA, would he look at the transatlantic air fares war and see whether this is a major explanation of the problems faced by BA along with many others in recent years?

Mr. Spratt: On the so-called "war" on the North Atlantic, in 1980 the three British carriers operating out of Heathrow had a combined fleet of nine American carriers: a tremendous achievement by the British airline industry, including British Airways, which has no intention of stripping any routes.

Mr. Anthony Grant (Harrow, Central, C): BA could be saved over £1m a year in fuel costs and the safety of the travelling public could be greatly enhanced if the price of fuel were to be controlled. Would he discuss it with the ruddy-duddies in HM Customs and Excise?

Mr. Spratt: While rejecting the spurious about HM Customs and Excise, I would be happy to look at what he suggests.

Mr. Clinton Davis (Hackney, Central, Lab): It is evident that it could not be in the national interest to privatize BA in the foreseeable future or at all. Why would he make a commitment to the future viability of BA by undertaking to get rid of the current scheme his predecessor introduced?

Mr. Spratt: I disagree. It remains this Government's intention to privatize BA as soon as practicable.

Mr. Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar, C): Is it the Government's position that it is opposed to the disposal of profitable BA subsidiaries, such as helicopter?

Mr. Spratt: So far the Government has taken the view that it would be best to sell off British Airways, when it does so, as a going and viable concern.

BA helicopters have made substantial profits over the past few years, but which they should be sold off. I would not rule out selling off the subsidiaries.

Mr. Woolmer: Would he withdraw his statement that he intends to sell off BA? Can he confirm that if he goes ahead with that madcap scheme, there is no majority shareholding?

Mr. Spratt: I do not intend to confirm that. If he prefers "denationalize" to "privatize", so be it.

Signs seen of growth in air traffic

The Government will shortly announce its conclusions on representations it asked for following air traffic forecasts for the four London airports, Mr. Ian Spratt, Under-Secretary of State for Trade, said yesterday, that passenger figures suggested a return to growth.

Mr. Robert Hicks (Roding, C): The Government has been asked to choose between the choice to ensure that the choice to ask questions when there was evidence that the choice was not as effective as it might be.

Mr. Tony Benn (Bristol South-East, Lab): I was entirely opposed to the PWR because there was an inherent safety defect in the design. To introduce the system to Britain would be wrong.

It was wise from time to time to ask whether the claims made for nuclear power in the light of experience and whether the time had come to consider any rate of scaling down of the role of nuclear power in long-term energy planning.

The nuclear lobby was without question the most powerful lobby he had ever come across in his life: notably the PWR lobby. The international companies were very strong and had pressed very strongly.

Underneath, the greatest pressure for nuclear power came from the fact that the PWR was a plutonium required for their weapon programme from the nuclear power programme.

Most countries that wanted civil nuclear power wanted it for weapons purposes. There were no enforceable safeguards for the control of fissionable material. There was a rough and ready international monitoring system, but it could only be improved by a process of consideration, and not an end.

Mr. Ian Lloyd (Havant and Waterlooville, C) chaired a select committee, said one of the reasons energy costs were so high was because the industry had been insulated from the need to respond more effectively to what was happening elsewhere.

Nuclear power was the safest, most efficient, reliable and productive form of energy the human race had devised provided they did not allow the economic of construction and operation to be destroyed by technical pride.

They must build and operate nuclear power stations efficiently, ensure they met objective safety criteria, and ensure there was public participation in this achievement.

There was a danger of killing the industry stone dead. This was the stated objective of some groups who were much nearer their target than they thought. No industry in the public or private sector could endure when investment worth of billions of

Mr. Spratt said that in 1981 the number of passengers at Heathrow, Gatwick, Luton and Stansted, handled 39,382,030 terminal passengers and 404,741 aircraft movements. The corresponding figures for 1980 were 39,553,508 terminal passengers and 430,331 air transport movements.

Mr. Alan Haselhurst (Saffron Walden, C): These figures, especially when taken with forecasts of future passenger scale and the introduction of

larger aircraft, cast considerable doubt on the proposition that there will be a shortfall in capacity at these airports by 1987.

Mr. Spratt: No. In six of the 12 months, traffic in 1981 was higher than in the corresponding months in 1980, indicating a return to growth. Comparisons of the total figures for the future need to look at the effect on traffic of the extra air traffic control strike in May and June and the bad weather in December. It would be a poor idea to base long-term forecasts on merely

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ENERGY

The Department of Energy is pressing new energy provisions which would be available in time for the Sizewell inquiry, Mr. Nigel Lawson, Secretary of State for Energy, said when he opened a debate on nuclear power.

Mr. Lawson also told MPs that the rate of nuclear build through the 1980s was likely to be much faster than in either the 1960s or the 1970s and that the Government would keep the longer term strategy under regular review and authorize specific new orders as and when it was satisfied they were justified.

The Government wanted to keep open the option to introduce fast reactors as and when they became economic. The NNC and AEA were working on a design for a commercial demonstration reactor and a very satisfactory design was emerging. But the timescale for fast reactors was uncertain. The Government was looking much longer than it did a few years ago, largely due to increased confidence about the long-term availability of uranium supplies.

Before taking major policy decisions the Government was exploring policy options, including the possibility and potential benefits of some form of international collaboration.

Government steps on the thermal reactor programme would help to safeguard the security of energy supplies on which the country's well-being so heavily depended.

Mr. Lawson said that by the turn of the century, alongside our coal-fired generating stations, we shall have a large and well established nuclear power programme which will be well organized to cater for this programme; and that we shall be able to supply nuclear goods and services to other countries which, like ourselves, have a growing need for nuclear power.

On top of this we shall be well placed to move into whatever forms of nuclear energy may follow the thermal reactor.

Mr. Merlyn Rees, chief Opposition spokesman on energy (Leeds, South, Lab), said he did

Policeman paid informer with drugs, QC says

From Our Correspondent, York

Five drug squad detectives declared war on addicts in Hull by paying an underworld informer with drugs, Mr Brian Walsh, QC, told York Crown Court yesterday.

The officers recruited a small-time pusher to supply illegal drugs to suspects before they arrested them, it was claimed.

Yesterday the jury was told how the informer, Thomas Hamilton Dunsmore, aged 30, was paid with heroin, LSD, cocaine, and cannabis from the drug squad's safe.

The officers, a detective inspector, and four detective constables based at Hull, denied 10 offences under the misuse of Drugs Act.

Mr Walsh, for the prosecution, told the jury that the officers allowed Mr Dunsmore to peddle hard core drugs for almost three years.

He said the offences resulted in two of the officers, Det Constable Ian Davidson and Det Constable Philip Riby, receiving substantial sums of money.

Mr Walsh said the offences began in 1977, when two of the officers recruited Mr Dunsmore as an informer after arresting him in possession of cannabis in a public house in Hull.

No charges were preferred, but Mr Walsh said, "in a nutshell, between 1977 and 1979 the officers quite unlawfully supplied drugs for sale as a reward or inducement to give them information about drugs and drug users."

Mr Dunsmore's job was to supply the drugs to other users, who were then arrested in possession, to order supplies of cannabis from local pushers, so that the detectives could arrest them when they attempted to sell them, he said.

Whether this was done by the officers out of zeal to gain convictions to boost the records of individual officers so that in the end they could get promotion, it was wrong, illegal, and wholly improper conduct," he said.

He added that each time there was a conviction drugs were given to Mr Dunsmore as a reward or inducement to trap someone else.

However, Mr Walsh said that on one occasion two detectives arrested an innocent man "set up" under their noses by Mr Dunsmore.

He said the man, a young bus driver from Saltburn, would give evidence to describe how he was convicted after a pop festival in Bridlington for possessing cannabis which he "didn't know he had on him".

Mr Dunsmore, he said, was a crucial witness, but also a criminal with a long record.

He was not "a shy or blushing violet", and when the police finally interviewed him he was promised by detectives that they would stop him if he said anything to incriminate himself.

Mr Dunsmore's career as an informer was interrupted in July, 1977, when he was jailed for six months for driving while disqualified, but Mr Walsh said that even in Manchester prison the detectives kept in touch.

On one occasion, Mr Walsh said, Det Constable Mike Atkins passed him a quantity of cannabis in a prison dormitory room which Mr Dunsmore later sold. On another, money was passed to him by detectives.

The accused men, all from Hull, are: Det Insp Mike Lord, aged 44, of St Margaret's Avenue, who denies possessing cannabis; Constable Davidson, aged 31, of Willerby Road, who denies inciting another to supply cannabis; two counts of unlawfully supplying LSD and heroin, and being concerned in supplying cannabis.

Constable Atkins, aged 26, of Norland Avenue, who denied unlawful possession and supply of cannabis, unlawfully supplying LSD, and inciting another to supply cannabis.

Constable Riby, aged 31, of Newton Dale, Sutton Park, who denies being concerned in the supplying of cannabis and unlawfully supplying LSD and cocaine.

Constable Andrew Ablett, aged 33, of Riversdale Road, who denies unlawfully possessing and supplying cannabis.

The trial continues today.

Schoolboy rapists to be detained 18 months

Two schoolboys who raped a girl aged 13 were each ordered to be detained for 18 months yesterday when Mr Justice Taylor, told Leeds Crown Court that neither a detention centre nor Borstal was adequate.

The boys, both aged 15, had pleaded guilty to raping the girl and aiding and abetting each other to commit rape. A third boy, also aged 15, who admitted indecently assaulting the girl and aiding and abetting one of the other boys in an offence of attempted rape, was sentenced to six months in a detention centre.

The judge, who directed that the three boys and the girl should not be identified, told the two rapists: "It is necessary you should be sent for a period of custody so that not only you realize, because I believe you do, but that others realize that to attack a girl this way is quite unacceptable in society."

Mr Norman Jones, for the prosecution, said the three boys and the girl attended the same school.

In Camberwell, south London, a boy aged 15 was remanded in custody by magistrates yesterday, accused of raping two women in one week. He will appear at Lewisham North juvenile court, south London, next Tuesday.

The boy is also accused of causing grievous bodily harm to one of the victims and of robbing the other of cash and jewelry worth £200.



Mr Reg J. Gadsden, who will judge the six group winners for the Supreme Champion award at Crufts dog show at Earl's Court, London, on Sunday week, with his fox terrier Vicky.

Better TV favoured, not more

By Kenneth Gosling

The prospect of multichannel television on American lines is greeted with little enthusiasm by London viewers, according to a survey carried out for the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

A thousand people were invited to complete a questionnaire in which they were asked what they felt about five more television channels providing programmes by satellite, and for their reactions to pay-television and cheap video-cassette recorders.

Most people who took part in the survey said they would prefer to see the present channels improved than to have more channels.

A framework for television satellite broadcasting in Europe was established in 1977 when five channels were assigned to give national coverage for each European country.

The first such broadcasts will take place in about three years.

A report by Dr Mallory Wober, the IBA's deputy head of research, indicates that people are not simply against change; they were, for instance, generally in favour of video-cassette recorders.

One viewer said: "Five more channels on television would give programme planners more chance to use poor quality and cheap rubbish."

Planners say airport inquiry is bungled

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

The Town and Country Planning Association announced yesterday that it had withdrawn its formal application to build London's third airport at Maplin Sands in Essex. Its action will reduce further Maplin's slim chances of being chosen as the airport site.

However, the association, which is backed by a consortium of companies and local authorities, insisted yesterday that Maplin was a better choice than the inland site at Stansted. It will present the Maplin case as an objector to Stansted at the public airport inquiry, which is now in its seventeenth week.

Maplin's hopes were damaged last year when the Greater London Council switched allegiance from it to Stansted. Last month the Ministry of Defence said that an airport at Maplin would damage the nation's defence capabilities by forcing the closure of being experimental ranges near by.

The aim of the association's withdrawal is to save time. If its application had gone ahead the public inquiry would now examine Stansted now examining Stansted would have had to devote as much detailed attention to Maplin, even though the Government does not support it.

By putting the Maplin case in objections to Stansted the association will give Mr Graham Eyre, the inquiry inspector, an opportunity to recommend that Maplin should be considered instead of Stansted. In the light of evidence given so far, it is highly unlikely that he will do so. Nevertheless, the association has succeeded in steering the inquiry outside the narrow orbit of Stansted.

The move of the association is one of a series of policy changes that have heaped complications on the inquiry since it opened last year. Mr David Hall, director of the association, said yesterday that a local inquiry into merits of enlarging the airport at Stansted was far too narrow a format for such a broad issue as London's third airport.

He considered the present inquiry, which will hear detailed evidence about Stansted and a possible fifth terminal at Heathrow, far less suitable than a planning inquiry commission which could initiate its own research and consider a range of suitable sites.

"The Government has bungled the whole process", Mr Hall said. "It seems to have learnt nothing from the experience of other big inquiries like Windescale and the Vale of Belvoir." The Stansted inquiry has been punctuated by reproofs from Mr Eyre to government departments for failing to produce adequate evidence about the local impact of an enlarged Stansted.

Mr Hall released the text of a letter he sent last week to Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment. It included formal withdrawal of the Maplin application "on the ground of what has become, in our view, a wasteful and inappropriate proceeding".

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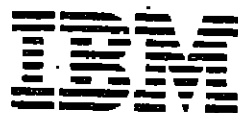
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Courts urged to shun inflated traffic fines

By Frances Gibb

Road traffic fines should remain at present levels although inflation has more than doubled since they were last reviewed, the Magistrates' Association recommended yesterday.

In its latest guidelines on road traffic offence penalties, the first since August, 1978, the association says that after consulting its branches, the overwhelming response was "that people's financial circumstances had not necessarily gone up in accordance with inflation".

Magistrates should therefore bear that in mind when fixing the amount of fines, it says. "A court should use its discretion in all the circumstances of the case in deciding whether a fine should be adjusted accordingly."

But the recommended freeze on fine levels might only be a short-lived respite, the association says. The Criminal Justice Bill, now before the Commons, proposes penalty increases for all road traffic offences. Further guidelines might therefore be issued later this year.

The latest guidelines, however, do include increased penalties for failing to stop and failing to report an accident, in line with the increase in the maximum penalty for those offences in the Transport Act 1981.

The recommended penalties are: £100 and endorsement and consideration of disqualification for failing to stop after an accident, and £50 and an endorsement for failing to report an accident. Maximum penalties in each case are now £1,000 and endorsement.

It is emphasized that the guidelines are only suggested penalties, representing a broad consensus on appropriate penalties for average offences committed by first offenders of average means.

For the first time, they include seat belt offences, pending provisions in the Transport Act, 1981, not yet in force. A fine of £10 is suggested for those not wearing a seat belt or for driving with a child not wearing one.

Stopping on a clearway is also included for the first time. The recommended penalty is £25.

Other suggested penalties include: stopping on the motorway hard shoulder, £25; walking on motorway or slip road, £25; and on hard shoulder £15; stopping on zig-zags by pedestrian crossing, £20 and endorsement; and driving with faulty tyres, £25 and endorsement.

On drinking and driving offences, the association says they account for many accidents, injuries and deaths. "The Court of Appeal has consistently upheld higher penalties for offenders with higher blood alcohol, and it is suggested that fines and especially periods of disqualification should reflect this."

SIKH KIDNAP FATHER CONVICTED

A Sikh who kidnapped his daughter when she defied him over an arranged marriage and ran away with her boyfriend was given a prison sentence of two years suspended for two years at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Ranjit Rai, aged 43, of Orchard Road, Darlington, Co Durham, was convicted of assault causing actual bodily harm on his daughter, Jasbir, aged 24, and causing grievous bodily harm to her boyfriend, Mr Muhammad Hanif, a Muslim. He had denied the charges.

His son, Lakhbir Rai, aged 19, unemployed, of the same address, pleaded guilty to assaulting Mr Hanif and was jailed for six months. He was allowed to leave the court because both he and his father had been in custody.

The girl's fiancé in the arranged marriage, Barinder Bains, aged 23, a machine operator, of Speckmans Way, Slough, Berkshire, was given a prison sentence for two months suspended for two years. He admitted impeding the arrest of the two other men.

PROTEST MARS CD OPENING

Anti-nuclear protesters disrupted yesterday's opening of the headquarters of the United Kingdom's early warning and monitoring organization which exists to give public warnings of air attacks and radio active fallout.

About fifty members of the Oxford-based Campaign Atom picketed the Civil Defence building at Cowley Barracks, Oxford. Many wore white boilersuits and gas masks.

They festooned the walls and gates with balloons and banners in protest. They want Oxford to be declared a nuclear-free zone.

Mr Mark Levene and Mr Glyn Robinson, two members of Campaign Atom were allowed in to put their objections to Mr Roy Cooke, the director.

Mr Levene said: "They claim their sole function is to advise the public in the event of a nuclear war, but they have a military role and are part of the war-fighting apparatus."

NEWS IN SUMMARY

More Red Brigades flats raided

Vicenza — Police claim to have smashed three more hideouts of the Red Brigades amid reports that arrested illegals are providing important information to police.

Arrests in the latest sweeps, in Rome flats, bring to 25 the number held since police stormed a flat in Padua and freed Brigadier General James Dozier, the American Nato officer, Thursday. An American cache was found in one of the Rome hideouts.

Emilia Libera and Giovanni Ciucci, two of General Dozier's alleged kidnappers arrested on Thursday, were giving police information about their earlier activities in the Red Brigades, Italian newspapers said.

Briton denies terrorist links

New York — John Paul Arthur, of Surrey, who had a sub-machine gun and armour piercing bullets, when he was detained in Brooklyn last week, has denied any connection with terrorist groups. A statement released through his lawyers before his court appearance rejected rumours that have linked him with the IRA, Libya and other groups.

Arthur, who entered the United States through Florida, was arrested in a predominantly Italian neighbourhood after a resident reported a suspicious car in the area. He is being held on \$15,000 bail (\$535,000). He was due to appear in court later and was expected to be remanded for trial.

Mugabe seeks Namibia action

Salisbury — It was time for the Western contact group to take a much firmer line in getting South Africa to comply with an undiluted resolution 435 on Namibia, Mr Robert Mugabe, Prime Minister of Zimbabwe said here.

Pretria was receiving solace through the prevarication, if not encouragement, of some Western countries, he told 61 representatives of the Lomé Convention countries.

Navy test-fires missile in US

Cape Canaveral, Fla. — A British missile has successfully test-fired what is believed to be an improved version of the Polaris missile, 30 miles off the Florida coast.

Officials refused to confirm that Saturday's launch from the Renown while submerged at the eastern test range of the United States Air Force involved a new Polaris missile, but officials have acknowledged that Britain has been conducting land-based launches of an improved Polaris in the area for several years.

First day of Senegambia

Abidjan — The long-planned Senegambia Confederation, uniting Senegal with The Gambia, was born at midnight. It grew out of a coup attempt last year in The Gambia. Capital, Banjul, which was defeated with the help of Senegalese troops.

Both countries retain their sovereignty but will develop joint policies for defence, foreign affairs, finance and customs.

40 accused of Bihar blindings

Delhi — Forty police officers, doctors and others are expected to be prosecuted for their part in the blinding of prisoners in the north Indian state of Bihar.

The decision to suspend the men and to clear the way for court action comes 15 months after newspaper disclosures that 32 prisoners at Bhagalpur had been blinded with needles, bicycle spokes and acid.

Peking's offer seen as ploy

Peking — China's offer to negotiate a time limit on American arms sales to Taiwan was seen by Western diplomats here as an attempt to appear flexible rather than an indication of a wish to compromise.

The statement was aimed at making Peking appear as reasonable as possible, they said, so that if Sino-American relations deteriorate, China can deny responsibility and blame Washington's intransigence.

Dynamite deaths

Altendorf, Switzerland — Two workers were killed and seven others injured when dynamite exploded and set off a fire at an explosives factory.

El Salvador slaughter begins after midnight

From Paul Eilman, San Salvador, Feb 1

The name of Jorge Aurelio Hurrutia did not figure on the list carried by the masked men dressed in Salvadorean army uniforms who came to his house in the early hours of the morning. But he was shot anyway.

His body, with two bullet holes in the heart, and the back of the head blown away, was one of 19 discovered yesterday morning in San Antonio Abad, a poverty-stricken slum on the north-western edge of San Salvador.

According to their families, all 19 died in similar circumstances — shot after their homes were raided by men dressed in army uniforms. All were inhabitants of the neighbourhood and ranged in age from a woman of 57 to two brothers, aged 16 and 14.

According to the Salvadoran military command, "some 20 terrorists" were killed during an operation mounted by the first infantry brigade after complaints from local inhabitants about "subversive" activity.

Injecting an element of confusion, a communiqué from the command further claimed that "as usual, the subversives took their dead and wounded with them".

Between the military operation and the 19 bodies found in the streets of San Antonio Abad.

Obfuscation of this sort is not unusual in El Salvador where the conduct of the military has again come under the scrutiny of the United States Congress after allegations that troops slaughtered almost 1,000 civilians during an operation in December in northern Morazan province near the border with Honduras.

The way in which Señor Hurrutia died offers a grisly insight into the often random way in which death finds its victims in the Salvadorean war, which last year accounted for nearly 17,000 civilian fatalities.

According to his daughter, Sandra Dalia, aged 19, the family was awakened by banging on the front door at 1 a.m. She said her father, dressed only in trousers, answered the door and was immediately seized by men in black berets and olive green uniforms, the lower halves of their faces being hidden by masks.

They brought her father back later to collect a shirt and a pair of shoes. They asked what he did for a living and when I told them he was a driver for the Ministry of Agriculture, they laughed. Señora Hurrutia said. It was the last time she saw her father alive. But the uniformed men came back a third time to search the

house and to question Señor Hurrutia's eldest son, Sergio, aged 16.

Other inhabitants of San Antonio Abad told stories of windows being shot out when people took too long to answer their doors and of finding bodies with their hands tied behind their backs.

The people of San Antonio Abad alleged that the killings had been carried out by troops from the San Carlos garrison, which is responsible for security in this sector of the capital. The garrison is the headquarters of the First Infantry Brigade.

The area, which lies on the lower slopes of the San Salvador volcano, is described by military sources as an infiltration route into the capital by guerrillas of the Farabundo Martí national liberation movement which is fighting to overthrow the military and civilian junta led by President José Napoleón Duarte.

The apparent link between Salvadoran troops and yet more slaughtering of civilians adds to the embassies' view of the military as a base for the export of subversion and armed intervention in neighbouring El Salvador.

He said that Nicaragua was already in the process of "being exploited as a base for the export of subversion and armed intervention" in neighbouring El Salvador.

Yesterday Mr Ruben Zamora, a spokesman for the Salvadorean guerrillas, said that additional military aid to El Salvador would only prolong the killing in the Central American state. He said that nothing short of sending American combat troops to El Salvador could prevent the eventual defeat of the Duarte regime.

"The Government forces are not going to be able to win the war with just more equipment," Mr Zamora said. "To win the war the Reagan Administration would need to do so much more than the American people would not accept it."

The Administration is expected to ask Congress to increase military and economic aid to El Salvador by \$100m to \$235m this fiscal year. A further increase to \$300m is expected for next year. The request will be contained in the President's budget presentation next Monday.

Last week President Reagan said that the Salvadorean regime of President Duarte was making sufficient progress on political and human rights for it to qualify for additional military and economic aid.

However this assumption is expected to be challenged in Congress this week, particularly after a series of press reports about an alleged massacre in which between 733 and 926 people are said to have been killed by government troops.

American officials in San Salvador concede that efforts to impress upon the Salvadorean command the damage done to its image by the continuing excesses against civilians have largely proved fruitless. "I guess you cannot change the habits of a hundred years overnight", one official said.

Americans step up military aid

Washington: The United States is to ship \$55m in emergency military equipment to El Salvador to replace aircraft which were destroyed during a guerrilla attack on an air base near San Salvador last week, it was announced today (Nicholas Ashford writes).

The announcement was made by Mr Thomas Enders, Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, in testimony to the Senate foreign relations committee during which he asked for additional American military and economic aid for the three members of the newly formed Central American Democratic Community — El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica.

During his testimony, Mr Enders also confirmed for the first time that Cuba had

recently received a new consignment of MiG 23 "Flogger" jet aircraft.

The presence at an airport near Havana of a number of crates believed to contain the aircraft was reported last month, but until now the Administration has refused to comment on these reports.

Mr Enders said the aircraft formed the second squadron of MiG 23s received by Cuba from the Soviet Union.

He also said that Cuba received some 63,000 tons of military supplies last year, more than in any other year since the Cuban missile crisis in 1962.

The need for additional assistance to pro-Western states in Central America, Mr Enders gave a warning that "unless we act now, the future could well bring more Cuban totalitarian regimes so linked to the Soviet Union that they become factors in the military balance, and so incompetent economically that their citizens' only hope becomes that of one day migrating to the United States."

He said that Nicaragua was already in the process of "being exploited as a base for the export of subversion and armed intervention" in neighbouring El Salvador.

Yesterday Mr Ruben Zamora, a spokesman for the Salvadorean guerrillas, said that additional military aid to El Salvador would only prolong the killing in the Central American state.

He said that nothing short of sending American combat troops to El Salvador could prevent the eventual defeat of the Duarte regime.

"The Government forces are not going to be able to win the war with just more equipment," Mr Zamora said. "To win the war the Reagan Administration would need to do so much more than the American people would not accept it."

The Administration is expected to ask Congress to increase military and economic aid to El Salvador by \$100m to \$235m this fiscal year. A further increase to \$300m is expected for next year. The request will be contained in the President's budget presentation next Monday.

Last week President Reagan said that the Salvadorean regime of President Duarte was making sufficient progress on political and human rights for it to qualify for additional military and economic aid.

However this assumption is expected to be challenged in Congress this week, particularly after a series of press reports about an alleged massacre in which between 733 and 926 people are said to have been killed by government troops.

American officials in San Salvador concede that efforts to impress upon the Salvadorean command the damage done to its image by the continuing excesses against civilians have largely proved fruitless. "I guess you cannot change the habits of a hundred years overnight", one official said.

20-year mystery deepens

Death scene: Wreckage of the aircraft in which Dag Hammarskjöld and 12 others died lying in a Northern Rhodesian forest in 1961. Right, from top, three men in the jungle: Tshombe, Bodenan and Hammarskjöld.

The alleged kidnapper of Moïse Tshombe has claimed the former Prime Minister of the Congo and Katanga leader was responsible for the death in 1961 of Mr Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Francis Bodenan, who is accused of hijacking to Algeria in 1967 an aircraft carrying Mr Tshombe, has also claimed that the Spanish and Belgian intelligence agencies were involved in the kidnapping.

After the Congo civil war in the early 1960s, Tshombe was sentenced to death in his absence and spent several years of exile in Madrid.

A charter flight on which he was travelling between Ibiza and Palma Majorca, was diverted to a military airport near Algiers. When the aircraft touched down, all the occupants were immediately detained by Algerian security officials.

At the time of the hijacking M Bodenan had apparently convinced Tshombe that he was a trusted member of his entourage. But, he told a reporter, he had turned against the Katanga leader after learning of his alleged

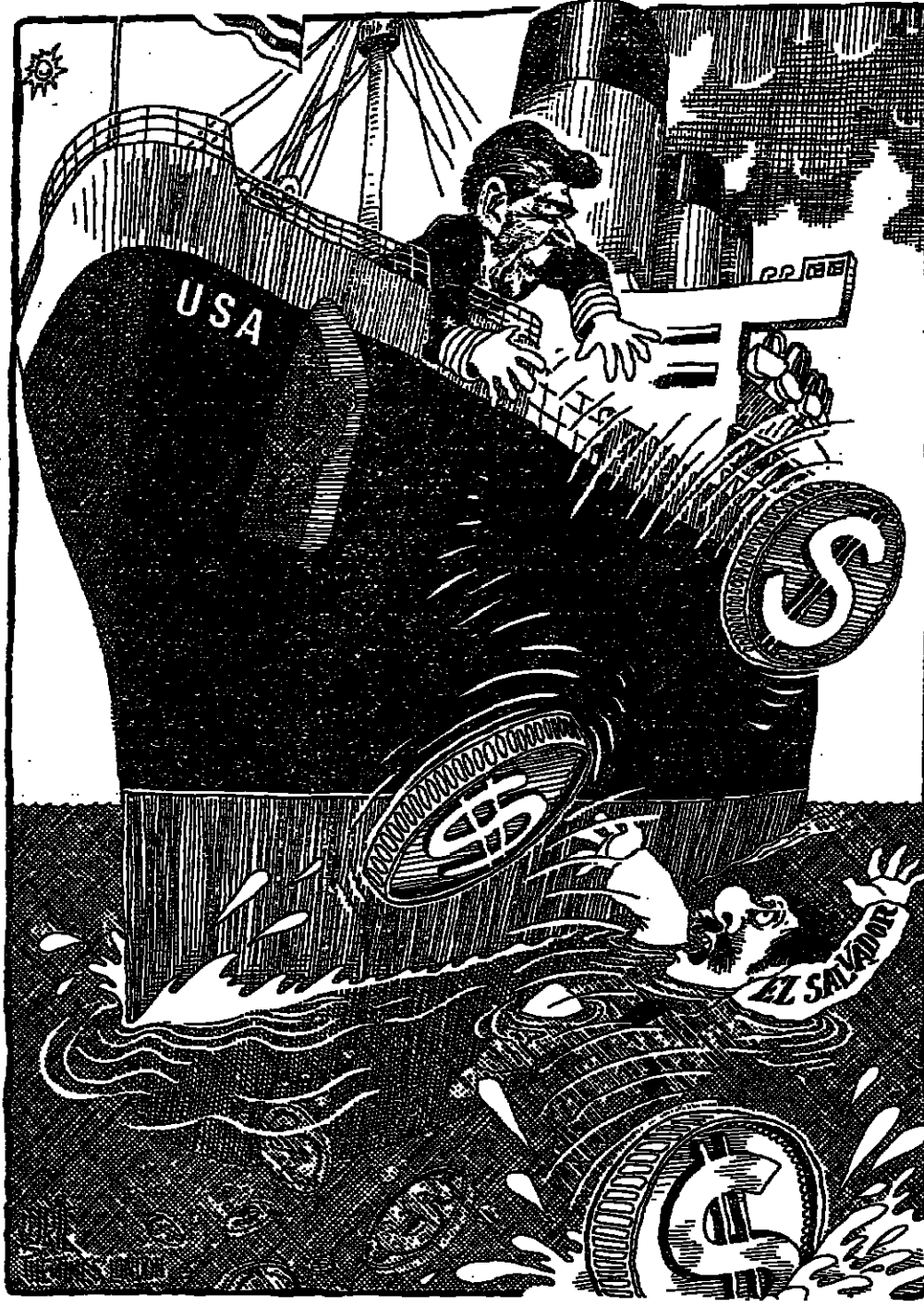
role in the death of Hammarskjöld.

Hammarskjöld was killed in an aircraft at night near Ndola in what was then Northern Rhodesia in September, 1961. He was to have met Tshombe at Ndola for talks aimed at restoring peace to the Congolese province of Katanga where fighting had broken out between Katanga forces and United Nations troops fighting in the Congo.

The cause of the disaster has always been something of a mystery and there was much speculation surrounding the circumstances of the flight itself.

M Bodenan also told his interviewers that he had turned against Tshombe after he had described how he had tortured and killed his arch-political enemy in the Congo, Patrice Lumumba, with a pair of scissors.

Lumumba, who was the leader of the newly indepen-



US puts off declaring Polish debt in default

From Bailey Morris, Washington, Feb 1

The Reagan Administration said today it will not declare in default Poland's debt to American banks despite failure of the Jaruzelski Government to meet scheduled payments of \$71.3m about \$37.5m in January.

Instead, the Administration has decided to reimburse nine United States banks for the past due payments of principal and interest owed in January, said Mr Beryl Sprinkel, United States Under Secretary of the Treasury for Monetary Affairs.

The Administration's newly articulated policy on Polish debt, opposed by hardliners in the Defence and Commerce Departments, would permit the Govern-

ment to repay American banks a total of \$397m owed by Poland this year.

The money is part of \$1,600m in loans made or guaranteed by the United States Agriculture Department to finance grain sales to Poland under community credit corporation programmes.

Some hardliners in the Administration had urged President Reagan to put economic pressure on the Soviet Union and the Eastern countries by declaring Poland's debt in default.

Mr Sprinkel said today, however, that "at the moment we are taking the position that we are not going to declare a default" in order to avoid putting additional strain on the international monetary system.

The "Graham Greene Affair" developed into a political dispute in France today as opposing figures from the Riviera exchanged rhetorical punches over the British writer's allegations of police-protected crime and corruption in Nice.

M Jacques Medecin, Mayor of Nice, was first into the fray with an interview accusing Mr Greene of fomenting the Riviera nest. He said the allegations, first made in a letter to *The Times* a week ago and enlarged upon in an interview with *The Sunday Times* published yesterday, were romanticized conclusions drawn from the unhappy experiences of one of Mr Greene's friends threatened by her criminal ex-husband.

"Once again, I note that a writer who likes the Côte d'Azur to the point of settling down to live here fends the nest in order to gain a bit of publicity and promote a novel through scandal," he added.

This was too much for M Max Gallo, Socialist Deputy for Nice, a long-time political opponent of the right-wing mayor and author himself of a recent novel about crime and corruption in the area.

Mr Greene's allegations, which he is putting forward in detail in a book to be entitled *L'Accuse*, attracted widespread attention in the French press and broadcasting media today. By tonight, the French news agency was heading its stories: "Affaire Graham Greene".

In Spain, the whole documentary was shown in prime time, watched by an estimated nine million. Two West German stations beamed shortened versions, drawing some complaints from viewers about cold war-style propaganda. Others said the whole programme should have been shown.

Czech food prices rise sharply

From David Blow, Vienna, Feb 1

Poland is not the only Eastern block country where prices of basic commodities have risen sharply; over the weekend Czechoslovak authorities also introduced a wide range of price increases.

Although the increases are much smaller than those in Poland they none the less represent a cut in Czechoslovak living standards.

The price of meat has been raised by an average of 25 per cent, cigarettes by 30 per cent, tobacco products by 39 per cent, wine by 18 per cent, and domestic vodka by 25 per cent. The price of rice is also

to be increased but it is not yet clear by how much.

Announcing the increases last week Mr Lubomir Strougal, the Prime Minister, said the state was subsidizing food prices at a level it could no longer afford.

Meat was a particular problem because Czechoslovakia had a comparatively high level of meat consumption but a quarter of that had to be produced from imported livestock feed. He made it clear that by increasing meat prices the Government hoped significantly to reduce consumption.

Czechoslovakia faces

Israelis unveil autonomy package

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, Feb 1

Israel last night officially published its proposals for the establishment of a Palestinian self-governing authority to administer the West Bank and Gaza under the autonomy plan.

There were no surprises in the document which proposed powers for the self-governing authority in 13 spheres and said the number of representatives in the administrative council should be commensurate with the functions listed.

The Egyptians in the autonomy negotiations have favoured a council with a few score deputies to serve as a legislature and not merely deal with executive matters.

The functions listed by the Israelis include the supervision of the administration of justice, control of all branches of agriculture and fisheries, as well as finance, including the budget of the administrative council, taxation, and the allocation of funds for various administrative departments.

The council, according to the Israeli proposals, will also control appointments to the civil service, and working conditions, as well as education and health services, housing and public works, local postal and communications services, welfare, labour and employment services, and municipal affairs.

"A strong local police force" will function as stated in the Camp David agreements. Prison services will be maintained for offenders sentenced by the area courts. The remaining functions will be the maintenance of religious facilities and the promotion of industry, commerce and tourism.

Elections to the administrative council are to be held "as expeditiously as possible", after the autonomy agreement is concluded. The inauguration of the self-governing authority will mark the start of the five-year transitional period for the West Bank and Gaza.

The Israeli military government and civilian administration will be withdrawn and Israel will be deployed "in specified locations". A map of the locations will be presented during the negotiations.

The homes of three suspected terrorists were sealed last night by security forces in reprisal measures, it was announced by the Israeli Military command here.

They included two houses in Helbron said to have been the home of members of a Fatah terrorist squad who killed two Christian pilgrims in a grenade attack in the Old City of Jerusalem, on September 12. An official announcement said the owners had confessed to the murder and to a grenade attack on an Israeli car.

The third house, at Kfar Katana near Ramallah, was said to have belonged to a prisoner who admitted firing on a bus on July 29 injuring four civilians including a pregnant woman.

□ Cairo: Further evidence of the gradually improving relations between the new Egyptian Government of President Hosni Mubarak and the rest of the Arab world came today when the border between Egypt and Libya was opened temporarily for the first time in three years (Christopher Walker writes).

The move is seen as one of the most important developments in Egypt's foreign relations since the murder of President Sadat last October.

□ Paris: President Mitterrand will visit Egypt after his trip to Tripoli in March. President Mubarak said following talks with the French leader at the Elysée Palace here today (Jonathan Fenby writes).

Mitterrand and the Egyptian President discussed the Middle East situation, including the Palestinian autonomy question, and East-West and North-South relations during their two days' meeting.

□ Canberra: Australia will join in the proposed Sinai peacekeeping force, Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Prime Minister, said today (Renter reports).

He said the participation of France, Britain, the Netherlands and Italy — approved by the Israeli Government yesterday — would give the balance Australia required.

The country's competitiveness in world markets has been declining steadily in recent years with the result that its foreign exchange earnings are now scarcely adequate to cover imports of essential raw materials.

This is putting an end to economic growth and forcing a cut in living standards,

Two s from by Bri

E German to disarm

Kurds rele Austrians

British he man bette

Pyrenees blocked

South African journalists alarmed by registry plan

From Michael Hornsby, Cape Town, Feb 1

The compulsory registration of all journalists on a central roll, from which those found guilty of "improper conduct" could be struck off and thereby prohibited from exercising their profession, is the central recommendation of an important report on the South African mass media tabled in Parliament here today.

The Government-commissioned report, drawn up by a committee under the chairmanship of Mr Justice Marthinus Steyn, a former Administrator-General of Namibia (South-West Africa), is widely seen in journalistic circles as the most serious threat to press freedom in the modern history of South Africa.

The report, which runs to three volumes and more than 1,300 pages, proposes the setting-up of a General Council for Journalism, which would regulate entry to the profession and sit in judgment on journalists accused of violating a statutory code of conduct.

The ultimate sanction available to the council would be to strike a journalist off the roll. Anyone who employed, published or broadcast the work of an unenrolled journalist would be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of up to 5,000 rand (\$2,780).

The report presents its recommendations as being intended to "professionalize" journalism by putting it on the same footing as the other "great historic and learned professions", such as medicine and the law. (The General Council would, for example, set entrance examinations for aspiring journalists.)

It is proposed that the council should have 12 members, of whom three would be Government appointees, three chosen by newspaper journalists and three by broadcasting journalists. They would serve for two years. During the first year of the council's life, however, all its members would be appointed by the Government.

There seems little doubt that the council's membership would be heavily weighted towards the generally pro-Government, Afrikaans end of the press spectrum. The main radio and television network, the South African Broadcasting Corporation, is largely a tool of Government propaganda while most magazines are owned by Afrikaans press groups.

Although the report finds fault with the Afrikaans press for being "too closely identified with Afrikaner nationalism its most barbed shafts are reserved for the "negativistic" reporting of the English-language press, which is the chief and certainly most vociferous vehicle for criticism of apartheid.

The report also criticizes the Government for excessive secretiveness. It then goes on, however, to plead for the

exhumation of the discredited Department of Information (disbanded after the "Muldergate" scandal), arguing that it should be empowered to conduct both "covert and overt" propaganda without having to account publicly for its use of Government funds.

The report comes close to saying that the Government was wrong in 1977 to ban outspoken black newspapers like the *World* and the *Post*, but says that the "moderate black community" should be encouraged to establish an independent black press.

The report also calls for greater diversification of newspaper ownership. In particular, it recommends that cross-holdings between the two big English-language groups, Argus and South African Associated Newspapers, should be ended.

Much of the report is devoted to a lengthy and repetitive analysis of what it calls "the South African circumstance", chiefly the external military threat posed by the Soviet Union and the internal subversive threat posed by alleged Soviet proxies, which include academic, academic and press critics of apartheid as well as black movements.

A large section of the press, the report complains, is dedicated to intensifying South Africa's "pariah status" and to the "substitution of a radically different political and socio-economic order for that now prevailing in South Africa".



Frenzied killer strangled yachtsman

Mr Michael Crocker, aged 42 (right), who was strangled on board his yacht in the Caribbean, with his wife Trisha and Mr David Brownjohn, who helped to build the yacht.

Trinidad police said yesterday that they believed the strangled had reacted in a frenzy of fear after boarding the boat to rob it.

He stabbed Mr David Drake, aged 40, in the neck. Mr Drake, Lloyds Bank deputy regional general manager in Birmingham, is recovering satisfactorily in hospital.

Mr Randolph Burroughs, the Commissioner of Police for Trinidad and Tobago, is leading the manhunt.

Mrs Crocker was under police

guard yesterday recovering from shock in an hotel in Port of Spain. The British High Commission said she intended to fly home with her husband's body as soon as possible.

The killer surprised the sleeping couples, who had anchored the 30ft sloop Nyn about 500 yards from shore in the Gulf of Paria.

The dream life built by the Crockers lasted only five months after they left Britain for a 10-year world cruise.

Both couples were asleep in their berths when they were awoken by the intruder. Mr Crocker went to investigate and was

confronted by a man wielding a knife and demanding money.

Mrs Crocker gave him \$300, and both couples pleaded with him to go away. Instead, he ordered Mrs Crocker to tie up her husband and the Drakes. He became impatient at her nervous attempts to tie up her husband and he began to do it himself.

As the man tightened the ropes Mr Crocker yelled out to the others: "Jump overboard". Before anyone could move the man lashed out, slashing Mr Drake's throat. Then in his frenzied attempt to tie Mr Crocker, he strangled him.

Defiant Ecevit freed from detention

From Our Correspondent Ankara, Feb 1

Mr Bulent Ecevit, the former Turkish Prime Minister, emerged today from two months in prison, making clear that his fighting spirit was unaffected.

Mr Ecevit, a social democrat, was sent to prison by a military court for allegedly violating a ban imposed by the military rulers, on public statements by former politicians.

He was said to have distributed a statement to the foreign press containing his replies to the charges presented by General Kenan Evren, the head of state, against pre-coup political leaders to justify the dissolution of the political parties last October.

Arriving at his home to a loud reception by his friends and former party followers, Mr Ecevit told the foreign press corps that though he was discharged from the prison, "so long as the limitations on my freedom continue, I feel in prison everywhere."

Defending the freedom of thought and expression, which he said was a means of achieving humane solutions to human problems "without which a society is bound to stagnate and a majority is doomed to exploitation and indignity."

"The will for freedom and democracy shall peacefully break through all obstacles."

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Two saved from ice by Britons

An RAF officer and four soldiers drove across a frozen Norwegian lake today to save a father and son who had been fishing through a hole in the ice when it cracked beneath them.

The pair were floundering in the water of Lake Voss, near Bergen while other fishermen looked on helplessly, afraid to go to cross the ice. Lieutenant John Dunstun, aged 42, of Welton, Lincolnshire, jumped into his Snowcat tracked vehicle and drove nearly a quarter of a mile across the ice.

With him was his team from the Royal Signals. They pulled the man from the water, wrapped them in blankets and then drove back across the ice to an ambulance.

E German plea to disarm

Berlin. — East Germany's Protestant Church, the only important body in the country not state-controlled, has called for moves towards unilateral disarmament, authoritative Church sources said.

The move came in a report by Bishop Wenzel Kuschke, approved at a national synod last weekend from which the East German Government barred Western reporters.

Kurds release Austrians

Vienna. — Three Austrians taken hostage by Kurdish nationalists in Iraq last November have been released, the Austrian Foreign Ministry said. Herr Stephen Schmidt, Herr Otto Stern and Herr Walter Brendinger were working for an Austrian construction firm when they were kidnapped.

British heart man better

Peking. — Mr Leslie Applewhite, the British engineer whose heart stopped beating for 55 minutes while he was being treated for a heart attack, has left Xian in north-western China where he was in hospital.

A British Embassy spokesman said that Mr Applewhite, aged 27, was on his way to Peking and would fly home on Thursday.

Pyrenees border traffic blocked for fourth day

From Our Correspondent, Madrid, Feb 1

Road traffic between Spain and France remained almost at a standstill today for the fourth day in a row, as a result of a work-to-rule by French customs officials and roadblocks organized by lorry drivers angered at the delays.

A written assurance from the French authorities, that the passage of vehicles would be allowed to speed up, was delivered yesterday to the civil governor of the Spanish border province of Guipuzcoa. A few of the thousands of lorries waiting on both sides of the frontier began moving past a customs point at Irun-Hendaye, on one of the main routes, at about one minute early today.

However, soon after midday the French customs officials were authorizing

Wine war bubbles over again

From Ian Murray Brussels, Feb 1

The European Commission wants France to explain why it reimposed import controls on Italian wine on Friday.

The move ends the uneasy truce in the wine war between the two countries which erupted last autumn and for which France still has to face two cases before the European Court for imposing a three-month ban.

The latest French action comes after a week during which angry wine growers along the Mediterranean coast began smashing barrels of imported Italian wine because it was for sale at below French prices.

On the face of it, however, the Commission feels that the ban is against the basic EEC principle which allows the free circulation of goods — hence its demand for an explanation.

M Claude Villain, Director General for Agriculture, gave a warning to the French farming lobby at the weekend in a television interview. France should understand, he said, that 45 per cent of its agricultural produce was exported and Italy was its best customer.

"Simply say that you have to be careful if you take measures which, on the one hand are forbidden by the treaty of Rome, and on the other which run the risk, if they drag Italy into retaliation, of serious consequences for French agriculture."

The French wine growers' protests last week arose from a sudden surge in imports of stronger Italian wine used for blending in France. This was almost certainly because French table wine bottlers were seeking to avoid paying a new tax of 5 francs (50p) a hectolitre on heavier wines, which came into force today.

□ The taste for wine continued to grow in Britain last year, with a 15 per cent growth in the sale of light wines according to latest statistics from the Wine Development Board (the Press Association reports). But Britain still remained the lowest wine consumer in Europe, except for Ireland.

The light wine sector was the only one in the drinks market to show any growth last year, not because people were drinking more but because more people were drinking wine.

About 25 million are now drinking wine in Britain, some of them only about a bottle a month. Although light wine sales are up, the amount still averages only two and a half glasses a person a week.

It's the same old story, reverberating emptily about in drab, chilly stations; meaningless excuses for unpardonable inefficiencies.

When we were invited to design an integrated audio-visual communications system for the new Tyne and Wear Metro, we decided to tackle the injury and the insult together.

In its entirety, the system will greatly reduce the likelihood of delays. But when they are unavoidable, at least you'll hear about them quickly and clearly.

A total of 432 loudspeakers (most of them high-quality 30 watt units) will broadcast announcements over each of the forty-two stations.

Fifteen stations will be continuously scanned by eighty-six closed circuit TV cameras.

And fourteen will be provided with a two-way communication point, serving as a combined emergency alarm system and passenger enquiry terminal.

The entire system will be monitored

and co-ordinated at a Control Centre in South Gosforth.

You could call it the acceptable face of the microchip.

We feel the same sense of corporate satisfaction when a pilot learns to fly a new aeroplane without so much as leaving the ground, on a Rediffusion flight simulator.

Or a sailor, days from land, pinpoints his position to within 200 metres, using a Rediffusion navigation system.

Or whenever a businessman punches the keys on his desktop System Alpha Teleputer terminal and gains instant access to information it might have taken him days to acquire in the past.

And indeed, whenever the comfort, enjoyment and convenience of people anywhere are enhanced by our work in the interrelated worlds of entertainment and communication.

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**"RHUBARB RHUBARB RHUBARB REGRETS
BLAH BLAH BLAH CRACKLE HISS HOWL
BULL BULL BULL PASSENGERS RHUBARB
CRACKLE BLAH BLAH BLAH BULL BULL
BUZZ BUZZ HOWL HISS CRACKLE DELAY,,**

How often have you heard these immortal words?

Fashion: Suzy Menkes on Claire Bloom's style



Facing the limelight

"In a way one never changes, although I'd be an idiot to feel exactly the same inside", says Claire Bloom. "Everybody still feels like a child. And that is especially true when you are an actress and your whole life is 'let's pretend'."

It is exactly 30 years since Claire Bloom stepped into *Limelight*, the tender late-Chaplin film that pinioned her as a star.

"Sometimes it is hard to remember how one felt then", she says. "A lot of dates blur. But 1952 was special for me. In the same year *Limelight* came out, I played Juliet at the Old Vic and my father died. It was a demarcation line for me between child and growing up. That's why I call the book *Limelight and After*," her autobiography comes out next month (published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson).

Visually, Claire Bloom is extraordinarily unchanged, the pure, pained classical profile erupting suddenly into impish laughter. Though other women would judge her an absolute beauty, she claims that she "misses by a long way". She rated Vivien Leigh, her partner in *Duel of Angels*, as the real beauty of her generation of actresses.

"She was extraordinary. No emotion ever showed on her face. I once acted with her when she was going through a difficult, unhappy time and was often in tears. Most of us when we cry get puffy, red eyes. With Vivien Leigh, the tears just lay on her cheeks like diamonds."

Claire Bloom shares with all actresses thrown up by the star system the sense that she owes it to her public to look her best.

Her ideal image of herself is to "look chic rather than romantic, in something wonderfully cut and French, perhaps from Chloé and in black and white". Her taste in clothes is basically classic with a lot of black in her wardrobe, especially at night. She arrived at the studio in a simple black cashmere



sweater, plain skirt and flirty black patent shoes. But she swooped immediately on the most colourful plumage, a jade-green Jean Muir dress with a raspberry-ripple suede jacket and Caroline Charles's pillar-box red, ruffled blouse. ("I used to have this idea of myself as a neat old lady with a little black dress and snow-white hair, but now it's coming nearer. I'm not so keen.")

She is just 50. "Of course it is a landmark and I don't like it. But 30 was the worst. I came out in a rash on my neck for weeks, until I realised that nothing had really changed." She doesn't enjoy the idea that she must now play "old woman" parts. While her public admired the icy elegance of her Lady Marchmain in *Brideshead Revisited*, she hated with a passion the 1920s fashions she wore.

"I think I looked wonderful as Lady Marchmain," she explains. "But I hated the

clothes because I looked old. I have a curvy figure and nice waist, and those twenties jackets with the ugly way they fall at the front is a bad look for me. I think it helped my characterization. But I found it hard to come to terms with the way I looked, except at the end when I realized that it had worked. I admit that I am very vain, I want to look young and pretty."

Claire Bloom announces that she has never succeeded in finding a wardrobe mistress to create wonderful clothes that can then be absorbed into her own wardrobe. Her recent classical parts such as Catherine of Aragon in television's *Henry VIII* hardly lend themselves to Fulham pavements or to the quiet Connecticut home where she lives with author Philip Roth for part of the year.

"Over there it is a great relief not to bother about clothes. I'm not a country

type. Some women look divine in tweeds and sweaters and I look foul."

Does she dress for her man and care what he thinks about her clothes? "I should say! But the man in my life at the moment happens to be totally uninterested in clothes and never comments on what I wear. He hates me to dress up and I've never dared to tell him how much I spend on clothes."

Claire Bloom has plenty of passionate dislikes. One of them is the live theatre.

"I hate, hate, hate the theatre now, going out there night after night. Television suits my life, anybody's life — so much better."

Her positive taste in clothes is hard to define. In colour it is a Renaissance tapestry of warm reds, burgundies and amethysts ("never brown, I look like a brown blob, and not blue.")

She says that her 21-year-old daughter Anna (by her marriage to Rod Steiger)

accuses her of buying boring accessories ("shoes always in beige or black") although she travels so much that she thinks she cannot have a pantechonicon "with thousands of different bits and pieces". Anna, a music student at the Guildhall, who lives at home, clearly has a needling influence on her mother's cautious taste.

Jean Muir's shapely dress with its ruffled neck looked elegant and stylish. So did Chloé's elegant and romantic creamy wool separates topped by a dashing cape. Then the public image of Claire Bloom emerged as she swept her newly styled hair off her face, wrapped a pearly choker around her neck and let the cloak fall in a Greek column of folds from her throat.

"Very glamorous and how the public want to see an actress," said Claire Bloom firmly. "Do you think I'll have time to get the potatoes on my way home?"

Above left: Jean Muir's jade-green, graph-checked, pure-silk dress, about £345 from Lucienne Phillips, Knightsbridge; Chic of Hampstead; Harrods; Barry Hooper, Torquay; Pollyanna, Barnsley; Olive Walton, Birmingham; Stella Nova, Edinburgh. Raspberry pink-suede, pleat-shouldered jacket by Jean Muir, about £285, from Lucienne Phillips; Simpsons; Harvey Nichols; Joan Ponting, Birmingham; Hobby, Cardiff; Brown Thomas, Dublin. Pearly hoop earrings £18.50 from Butler & Wilson, 189 Fulham Road, SW3, and Liberty, Regent Street, W1.

Above right: Chloé's clotted-cream, fine-wool blouse £110; soft skirt £172; and swashbuckling cloak £182 from Chloé, 173 New Bond Street, W1. Black-suede, braided belt from Yves Saint Laurent Rive Gauche, 113 New Bond Street, W1. Black and white pearly necklet £36 and earrings £12.50 from Butler & Wilson, 189 Fulham Road, SW3, and Liberty, Regent Street, W1.

Above centre: Pearly choker with bold deco clasp £68; drop pearl and marcasite earrings £14.50. All from the new collection at Butler & Wilson, 189 Fulham Road, SW3, and Liberty, Regent Street, W1. Cream cloak by Chloé.

Photographs by Clive Arrowsmith

Hair cut and styled by John Frieda

Make-up by Teresa Fairminer for Estée Lauder Prescriptives

Face: Moisture Protective Tinted Cream, light tint loose powder.

Peach Buff Powder Cheek Colour

Lips: French Fawn Sports Lipstick with Terracotta Lip Gloss

Eyes: Bremen Blue powder shadow outlined with True Brown.

Highlighted with Venetian Gold. Mascara: Black Intensity

Demand for murder trial at inquest on dingo case baby

From Douglas Aitout, Melbourne, Feb 1

The counsel assisting the coroner investigating the case of the baby whose parents say she was taken from a central Australian camp site by a dingo, recommended today that the mother should be sent for trial for murder.

Mr Des Sturges told the Alice Springs coroner that the evidence showed Mrs Alice Chamberlain's daughter Azaria had been unlawfully killed. He said that Mr Michael Chamberlain, the baby's father, should be sent for trial as an accessory after the fact of a murder.

The Chamberlains were visibly shaken by Mr Sturges's submission. Mr Chamberlain remained for several minutes with his head in his hands and was clearly distressed. Mr Gerry Galvin, the coroner, adjourned the court until tomorrow after hearing the submission.

The small courtroom was packed for the resumption of "this second inquest on the baby, who died in August, 1980, after disappearing from a tent at a site near Ayers Rock."

At the first inquest in February this year, a coroner

accepted that the baby, whose body was never found, was taken by a dingo. A new inquest was called after further evidence was presented to Northern Territory police.

A forensic expert today told the inquest that foetal blood was found on a camera bag belonging to the parents. Mrs Joy Kuhl, the only witness today, said she did extensive tests on the bag lasting four days, she said baby hair was also found inside the bag.

Mr Sturges told the coroner today: "Your worship does not have to determine whether or not murder was committed by Mrs Chamberlain, or that Mr Chamberlain was an accessory after the fact. All you have to do is decide if there is a prime facie case." He said there was sufficient evidence to request that the matter be brought before a judge and jury.

"The evidence shows that on August 17, shortly after the disappearance of the baby, who died in August, 1980, after disappearing from a tent at a site near Ayers Rock."

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Peace plan advanced by Seoul

From Jacqueline Reditt, Seoul, Feb 1

South Korea has followed up the recent unification formula it proposed to North Korea with a list of 20 pilot projects that would open up direct communications between the two Koreas after more than 30 years of separation.

In an apparent attempt to emphasize the determination and sincerity of President Chun Doo-hwan's latest peace offensive, Mr Son Ja-shik, the Minister of the National Unification Board, issued a statement today asking the North Koreans to open their common border.

The statement renewed a request to the North for a preliminary meeting of cabinet-rank officials with a view to arranging talks between President Chun and his North Korean counterpart, President Kim Il-sung. It also contained 20 proposals for establishing two-way communications as a positive posture rather than "merely paying lip service to unification."

The proposals seek the opening of a highway between Seoul and Pyongyang, and a postal service. They include the reunion of separated families — there are an estimated seven million people in the South — free travel through the border village of Panmunjom for all foreigners and Koreans who live abroad, the complete removal of all military facilities from the demilitarized zone and a direct telephone link between leading military officials of each side.

The statement also suggested that the harbours of Inchon in the South and Chinnampo in the North be opened, that joint fishery and tourism zones be established and for sports, cultural, economic, ecological and trading exchanges to be arranged.

Private versus state schools
France faces risk of new war in education

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Feb 1

Very gingerly this week, the Socialist Government has begun to tackle one of the most explosive items in its catalogue of reforms — the "creation of a great public unified and secular system of national education, without confessional or monopoly" in accordance with the electoral promises of M François Mitterrand.

It is a matter on which the feelings of thousands of French families run very high. For behind the deliberately vague terminology loom the whole question of the nationalization of private

He has begun dealing with the problem consulting the representatives of the different associations and unions, starting with the Catholic Schools Association, and the powerful Fen, the Federation of National Education, the French teachers' union.

These consultations are likely to go on until Easter at the very least, when the Minister will have to show his hand one way or the other.

M Savary is under considerable pressure from the Fen, which, with a return of a large number of its members to parliament in the last elections, comprises a powerful and distinctly secularist force, and has substantial support in the Cabinet itself. It is determined to hold the Government strictly to its electoral promises, even at the risk of reviving the schools war.

Its leaders have told the minister that the unified and secular nature of the future education system ruled out the "separate character" of religious and private schools. For the first time in many years they openly attacked the Catholic hierarchy in France, accusing it, along with conservative governments of the past, of responsibility for a situation of conflict between the state and private schools systems.

On the other side, the Catholic Schools Association, backed by the French bishops, will fight, if necessary, to defend the autonomy with the state system which private schools enjoy. Father Paul Guideret, the secretary general of the association, told the minister that it would not yield on five points: free choice for families, the autonomy of the schools, freedom to appoint teachers, free choice of curricula, and independent

Warning of homosexual witch hunt

From Richard Hughes, Hongkong, Feb 1

A secret investigation is being conducted in Hongkong to list the names of "known homosexuals," as someone of either sex who has been convicted of a homosexual offence or who has formally acknowledged being a practising homosexual.

"Existing policy," it is emphasized, "insists that no such persons, regardless of rank, should be appointed to the civil service."

The investigation has aroused controversy, particularly because it includes women homosexuals despite the fact that lesbianism is not illegal in Hongkong.

Even the names of "suspected homosexuals" have to be referred automatically to Mr Martin Rowlands, the Civil Service Secretary, "for advice."

Mr James Lethard, criminologist and sociologist at Hongkong University, has given a warning that the directive could "lead to a witch hunt in government" and "backfire by itself provoking adverse publicity abroad and possible questions at Westminster."

He also said that "no such policy has ever been set down in writing before."

Mr Rodney Griffith, of the Hongkong University School of Law, described the employment policy laid down in the directive as "pretty unenlightened but consistent with the present law."

Prisoners of conscience

From Richard Hughes, Hongkong, Feb 1

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India-Pakistan talks raise hopes

From Trevor Fishlock, Delhi, Feb 1

India and Pakistan are to continue talking about a non-aggression pact. That was the outcome of the talks between the two countries which ended here today on a note of guarded optimism.

Mr Asghar Shahi, Pakistan's Foreign Minister, returned to Islamabad saying his discussions with Mr Narasimha Rao, his Indian counterpart, has "not in any way been discouraging."

Mr Rao said the continu-

ation of the talks would lead to a non-aggression pact. The discussions will be resumed in Islamabad later this month. They will involve high-ranking Foreign Ministry officials and will focus on the nuts-and-bolts aspects of matters the foreign ministers have agreed.

Their joint statement today said "the air has been sufficiently cleared to allow talks on the substance of an agreement."

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THE ARTS

Television

A decent burial

The death of a dossier is the saddest thing, but it was Irish Night, too, on Police (BBC 1) so a fumbling ascription tempered the sadness. One of the gentlemen across the road had been found dead at the foot of the stairs, had he? Well, no, said the lady from the better side of the street — she was pursuing of lips not perhaps on show, but certainly implied — she could not really say whether one of them had walked with a stick, they were all so drunk all the time what difference did it make? There are moments, every week, when Police should be called "public".

The problem, of course, was shaking Mickie the Briskie's fellow-dossers out of their bovine, alcoholic daze enough to reveal which of them, if any, had given him a push. Nobody made a bit of sense first time round, so the house was sealed off, "overnight accommodation" was arranged at the Station (with Full English Breakfast?) and further pictures withheld for 24 hours. The next day, it was clear that they had been trying to articulate before. Sentences rose gently and trailed off, gazes were met or evaded, big hands sweat, opened and shut. It was no good: to the Chief Inspector's displeasure, they all had to be sent home. The Coroner was called in and the body, said to have been helped to build Aldermaston Research Station and to have been sustained in a late life of liquor by revenue from property in Ireland, was decently buried. Enthralling.

Horizon (BBC2) asked "What happened to the Energy Crisis?" and the topographer Woolley surveyed the current state of resources and research into finite and alternative forms of power to the point where the information piled up into what was described in the programme itself as a fatiguing load. Was nuclear energy necessary? Could we employ Swedish methods of inter-seasonal storage in our more equable climate? Could we follow the French example in Brittany and build a barrage across the Severn? Then the geothermal energy in Cornwall and Passive Solar Design. And what about offshore wind farms, Bristol Cylinders ("submerged but buoyant") and the Lancaster inflatable Bag?

In Central Milton Keynes — no one more seems to be calling it — eight houses enjoyed experimental energy the behaviour and response to domestic requirements of which were precisely recorded on a blue board of terminals marked "3rd Bedroom", "Vibrating Centre", "Edge" (and could almost swear "Cook") — but then people expect that kind of serious attention in CMK. Throughout the programme statistics stunned one on the head and hurried away in the mind, while a few lingered to puzzle. Enormous windmills, for example, two hundred feet high and three hundred feet across, would only provide electricity for six thousand people which, given the size of the things, did not seem nearly enough. Fatigue-inducing load was more skilfully avoided on this occasion by Panorama (BBC1), in which Philip Tibenham and Tom Bower managed to make a programme about foreign policy and international relations — specifically those of the United States (dormant) and Israel (active) towards Iran that had everything from hawkish statements by Israeli officials on the need to overthrow Khomeini from within before chaos and Communism follow his death and American caution from former CIA men and Ambassadors still in shock from the mob-trauma of Tehran. The melodrama of arms-runnings, secret deals and disguised airports of origin broadened to a clear account of opposing positions that gave equal plausibility to both sides.

Michael Ratcliffe

Galleries

Representational relish of the master collagist

Kurt Schwitters in England

Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal

James Cowie: The Artist at Work

Fine Art Society

Jean Marchand

Christopher Hull Gallery

Sickert and His Printmaker Friends

Parkin Gallery

Two major exhibitions dedicated to the same artist in the course of four months might seem disproportionate — even when they are some small posthumous compensation for half a lifetime's neglect. But Kurt Schwitters is an interesting and varied enough artist to stand up happily to so much scrutiny, and in any case the whole thrust of the show Kurt Schwitters in England, at the Abbot Hall Gallery, Kendal, until February 28, is so different from the memorable London show at Marlborough Fine Art last October that the enterprise completely justifies itself.

In Kendal, as the title suggests, the accent is entirely upon Schwitters' work while he was living in the Lake District after he had been released from internment as an enemy alien early in the war. Here too, despite the unlikely circumstances, Schwitters continued to work on his vaguely Dadaist projects, turning out a series of small-scale works of local scene like *Mr Routledge* (1941), his admirable flower-piece *Was his heart in them?* You need only look at some of the splendid

again during the first stage of his exile, in Norway. He also made collages and painted abstracts. But his principal occupation was painting portraits and landscapes.

One might suppose that this was out of dire necessity and responded to no artistic urgings of his own. But, though he did indeed sometimes paint them for local tradesmen, he supplied them with the basic necessities of life, or as a friendly return for hospitality, it is quite clear that he never, at any period in his career, looked down on representational art or felt it was any less natural and valid a part of his activity than the most advanced and incomprehensible.

Which is very reasonable, since he was in fact a thoroughly accomplished representational painter, who obviously worked in the traditional forms not only with facility but with great and painterly realism. Finally, one may feel that the area of unique mastery is collage, which he arguably did better, and certainly more magically and less literally, than anyone else. His abstract paintings too have their admirers, but they seldom seem quite right to me: too much like Theosophical thought-forms struggling ineffectually to be born. (Though I must admit that some of the smaller ones in the Kendal show are wonderful: the two tiny *Owl Paintings* of 1945 and 1947, making their effect with just a few discreetly distributed curves and dabs of colour, or *The Pool*, from the mid-Forties, which arranges its not quite decipherable shapes in a manner recalling Amalie Gorge's *Le Lac*.)

But the fully figurative work inhabits a different world. A number of the landscapes, and one or two of the portraits, such as *Mrs Horner*, suggest an unsuspected affinity with Kokoschka. But in most of them he looks like a good, not quite the placeable Post-Impressionist. The confident, saturated brush-strokes of the *Lakeland Scene* (c.1946), a subtle harmony in greens, or the more choppy, dynamic style of *The Bridge House, Ambleside* (1948), are very much of a piece with his briskly sketched portraits of local friends like *Mr Routledge* in the Forties, his slightly surrealistic fantasies and weird symbolic pieces like *Noon*

sketches he was always doing of scenes and people to see that it was Perverse to the end, he refused to be categorized. Or are we perverse to want that?

We have no chance to make the acquaintance of a neglected-but-unclassifiable artist closer to home — our home, not his — in London with the Fine Art Society's presentation of the Scottish Art Council's show *James Cowie: The Artist at Work* (until February 19). Cowie only looks unclassifiable, in that he went single-mindedly in his own direction throughout the Thirties, when no one else in England or Scotland was doing likewise; but, seen in an international context such as last year's big Centre Pompidou exhibition *Les Réalistes 1919-1939* (not that he was, except mentally by a few British visitors), he makes perfect sense. His cool-toned, level-headed brand of detailed realism can immediately be compared with the work of the German painters of the Neue Sachlichkeit group, or some of the equally neglected French artists who took themselves off the Ecole-de-Paris highroad to abstraction around the same time.

For all that, he still remains a uniquely disturbing artist, isolated by his temperament and personal vision rather than by any eccentricities of style. Few who saw his amazing *The Schizophrenic* (1934-35) in the Hayward's Thirties show will have forgotten it. The two girls sit side-by-side, not so much talking as looking towards each other in silent question; behind them is a classical cast, and they are holding what look like smoking pipes. It is at once intimate and monumental; they look as undefended and impregnable as the *Mona Lisa*. And this same feeling of *tempus mortis*, of waiting for Godot, impregnates many of Cowie's paintings of people, four of the most important among which are included in this show along with a fascinating array of sketches and preparatory studies.

To my taste he is a little bit more telling when the mystery of his paintings remains implicit and indefinable, when, as increasingly in the Forties, he begins to sketch slightly surrealistic fantasies and weird symbolic pieces like *Noon*



Schwitters's "Mr Routledge" (left), a brisk (and perverse?) sketch of friendship; and detail from Sickert's etching "The New Tie", the work of a still-underestimated giant

(1946), with nude figures disposed ambiguously in realistic landscape, the sense of airlessness becomes too oppressive, the ability to disturb too calculated. But even here there is no doubting the force behind his work; the passing years make him look more and more important.

While we are no the subject of neglect, it is well worth taking a look at the show of oils, watercolours and drawings by Jean Marchand at the Christopher Hull Gallery, 670 Fulham Road, until February 13. Marchand was a near-contemporary of Derain, and passed through many of the same stylistic phases. Many competent judges (Roger Fry among them) thought as highly of his work, and yet though in London both O'Hana and Crane Kalman have constituted themselves his advocates, here and elsewhere he has sunk into obscurity since his death in 1941, aged 59. Quite possibly he never consistently fulfilled his potential (but then

there are many who think the same of Derain after his brief and dazzling Fauve period), but there is a considerable body of worthwhile work, as can be seen here best in some excellent drawings of French landscape, town and mountain, which have an elusive Cubist flavour without pushing too far into analysis. It is ultimately the senses rather than the mind which tell. And that, for Marchand's sort of painter, is just as it should be.

Certainly Sickert, in this country, has never suffered from neglect — or not overall, though the recent show of his later work at the Hayward has demonstrated (to some) how far his last years have been underestimated. But Sickert was a giant, and inevitably those around a giant tend to get overshadowed. The main discovery of Sickert and His Printmaker Friends at Michael Parkin's in Mowbray Street until February 13 is not Sickert's prints — they are of course very good,

but then we know that already — but inevitably the work of the friends.

Some of them, like Whistler and Manet, were quite grand and successful in their own right; others, like Walter Greaves and Thomas Way, were lesser members of Whistler's circle rather than Sickert's. But the prints of one is tempted to call them Sickert's hand-maidens, for that gives a just enough impression of the relationship — Sylvia Gosse, Wendela Boreel and Enid Bagnold can frequently take us by surprise and are on occasion as good as those of the master himself. Not consistently, though there is a catch. But it would still be far more agreeable to have an etching by Wendela Boreel at her best, as in *Mornington Crescent from Sickert's Window* or *Window Shopping* — *Moses Stevens, Berkeley Square*, than one in which Sickert nods.

John Russell Taylor

London debuts

Pianistic enterprise

Few pianists arrive at their debuts with the enterprise and imagination shown by Alan Weiss in the first half of his recital, a judicious choice of sonatas by Haydn and Schubert surrounding Weber's *Variations*. The Haydn sonata, the C major work of 1789, was made as revolutionary as its date, with the first movement expressively laden with questioning lines, the second more comic than brilliant. Schubert's D major Sonata also gained from Mr Weiss's willingness to chase character even at the expense of continuity, to plead individually for each theme from a different point of view. His alternation in the first movement of bald statement and reflection was very effective, but so too was the mobile lyricism he brought to the slow movement and the finale, both of which became fantasies of song and agility.

In Weber, quite properly, the focus was closer, and Mr Weiss used all his considerable powers of articulation to examine each wisp of a musical phrase, each chord and even on occasion each note. Nothing of this kind was possible for the Brekka Ensemble, a group as odd in formation as in name. For they studiously avoided what masterpieces are available to mezzo-soprano, clarinet, viola and piano. Instead we had a curious miscellany of Latin-American and east European material, together with a 25-year-old sonata rescued by Charles Camilleri for its belated baptism and a collection of songs by Spohr, his opus 103, in which voice and clarinet were made more to interfere with than support each other, and which three-

tened to amble pleasantly for ever.

This dismal choice of repertoire was especially regrettable when the performers had so much more to offer. The mezzo, Jennifer Bolam, showed off a young voice of surprising versatility, able to move smoothly from winning brightness to soulful gloom in characterizing the separate numbers of Dvorak's *Gypsy Songs*, but she would not have been obliged to try so hard if she had sung them in English rather than Czech. Lynn Holman, on clarinet, had a good firm tone and enough musicianship to make much of mediocre stuff.

The Hertz Trio from Canada, with the much richer piano trio repertoire to draw on, did well to base their recital on two big romantic works, Brahms's C major Trio and Arsenky's D minor, for their strengths lay in a full, unified tone, secure movement together and admirably firm yet flexible phrasing, particularly from the violin and cello when they were playing together in octaves. By way of contrast they offered the terse and turbulent second act of *Le Grand Archer*, one of the many gifted women composers who flourish in Canada as nowhere else. This piece had been thoroughly mastered by the ensemble, and it showed them in a starker light, with more attention on clarity of counterpoint as the two strings imitated the pianist's movement, for instance, and with quicker lines of communication flashing among the players.

Paul Griffiths

Opera

Tensions of an empire in decline

Götz Friedrich's new production of *Der Rosenkavalier* in Stuttgart is a stimulating affair, but it stops well short of throwing the romance out of the window. He moves the story to the later days of the Habsburgs, giving a usually absent ring of chronological truth to the waltzes and hinting here and there at the nervousness of an empire in decline.

When the curtain rises the Marschallin has a look of post-sexual satisfaction: Octavian is exhausted beside her. A portrait of the Field Marshal glowers down. Part of the Marschallin's problem is clear. She has married a much older man. The Field Marshal, on the other hand, has possibly married beneath himself, for his wife can be sharp with servants in public, is not always sure of herself, is quick to anger.

At the end of Act I there is no business with the mirror. Instead, the Marschallin casts a fearful look around her boudoir, and leaves.

Silvio Varviso, whose conducting is one of the joys of the evening, is at his most sensitive at this point.

Friedrich's staging of Act III is original and effective. The rendezvous takes place in an ante-room off a festooned ballroom where couples in carnival costumes provide a dancing background. Octavian need not pay for the band after all. His horrors are gleefully manipulated by children in the attic above. For the trio, ante-room, ballroom and dancers fade, and the actors are alone on a candle-lit stage.

The Marschallin is Karen Armstrong, accurate in characterization according to Friedrich's realization, musically less convincing, with a tendency to start under the note and an occasional intrusive vibrato, but not always holding her own in ensembles. Octavian is seen as a recklessly primitive character, a gangling youth of gauche expression and clumsy movement, transformed into manhood at a stroke by an ennobling new love. The gifted Doris Soffel sings and acts with fierce dedication. Baron Ochs becomes a lovable, teddy-bear landowner (Helmut Berger-Tuna), never cast down, off to tumble the next milkmaid when the game is up.

More traditional in conception is the new *Der Rosenkavalier* at Düsseldorf's Deutsche Oper am Rhein, directed by Otto Schenk. As ever, he moves events fluently. Yet there are times when he seems to be seeking something unsaid in his memorable Munich production of a decade ago, and the effect is sometimes effortful. This is most noticeable in the Marschallin's exit. In Munich, the Marschallin (Gwyneth Jones) broke our hearts by a simple tilt of the head and a hand outstretched momentarily for Octavian. At Düsseldorf, the Marschallin and Von Faunstein go over to the lovers for elaborate hand-

shakes. The bitter sweetness of renunciation is blunted, and Von Faunstein's "Gnd halt so, die Jung' Len" and the Marschallin's poignant "Ja, ja" become pointless. Judith Beckmann's Marschallin looks subtly young enough to fear the passing years, and is beautifully sung. Her Octavian is Trude-Hesse Schmidt, ardent and impulsive, eloquently rich singing reaching its zenith in a strong line in the trio. Ochs (Karl Ridderbusch) is a pompous womanizer grabbing a last chance, disillusioned and suddenly aged in his dismissal.

It is in Hiroshi Wakasugi's conducting that the Düsseldorf production moves away from tradition, with the score treated almost in a chamber music style. The textures are transparent, detail which is often swamped is exposed, relevant motifs have a telling impact. It serves Von Hofmannsthal well.

Kenneth Loveland

Season's Greetings

Greenwich

Discussing the bad old days of fortnightly rep, John Osborne's autobiography spends a couple of paragraphs on the mass of long-forgotten formula comedies about family reunions. *Season's Greetings* is Alan Ayckbourn's contribution to this humble form.

It is Christmas Eve. Uncle Harvey is slumped in the best armchair watching an old film on television. Belinda is decorating the tree while her husband looks after the drinks with a business cron.

Uncle Bernard is threatening to put on his annual puppet play. And you know it is only a matter of time before the festive facade begins to

This being an Ayckbourn piece, there is no point in spilling any more of the plot. We are back in his middle-class family circle of neglected wives, self-preoccupied husbands and relatives with a few problems and obsessive hobbies, where everyone hurts each other and nobody is to blame. What counts, as always, is the ingenuity of whatever new pattern he manages to weave from the familiar threads.

In these terms, the play is not in his top flight. He sets himself too main problems: how to write about Christmas without bringing children on, and how to release the feelings of the frustrated ladies. He tackles the first by keeping the kids in bed and the second by allowing Belinda's sister Rachel to bring a young novelist, with whom she is slightly acquainted, to stay with the family. This is

an unlikely move, and as Clive the novelist is there mainly to arouse erotic interest and suspicion, he comes over as a blankly passive figure. Nigel Havers gives him a nice line in self-deprecating charm, but it is a rotten part.

Otherwise, Ayckbourn's production is a treat from start to finish. Its characters take on an ever-strengthening definition while simultaneously engaging in an increasingly concentrated action. The more imprisoned by events, the more free they become. To take one case, Peter Vaughan's Harvey has given all the children guns for Christmas. He is a former security guard and before long he resumes that role — officiously patrolling the landing during the intrigue-ridden hours of darkness, and finally pulling a gun on the departing Clive.

The night scene, in which Clive plausibly submits to an alcoholic wife, the virginal Rachel (Marcia Warren, choking back her venom with a bright smile) and finally Belinda, whom he really wants, brings the main comic explosion.

This scene winds up the first act. Thereafter, though the puppet show of Uncle Bernard (Bernard Hepton) goes as wrong as you could wish, the comedy cools to a healthy disquiet, ending with snow falling and the party splitting up. It holds on course thanks to the preparatory fun and games. By now, Barbara Ferris, Gareth Hunt, Diane Ball and the rest of Ayckbourn's fine company have taken on such independent life that you care for them for their own sakes.

Irving Wardle

Theatre

Ayckbourn's contribution to a humble form

War Music

Warehouse

I suppose that the theatre started something like this millennia ago, with men declaiming fierce and magical incantations in a ring of rapt listeners. Christopher Logue has made these translations from the *Iliad* for the last 20 years. He and Alan Howard do not look in the least like those Alma-Tadema paintings of bards striking lyres and posing in front of audiences of genteel Victorian ancient Greeks. They make something older and wilder sing to us.

The poems fall into three parts. The oldest, written in 1962, is the killing of Patroclus from Book 16. Next is a conflation of blood and battles from Books 17 and 18, which Logue calls "GEB", in which Achilles comes back into the war, and so Troy falls. They divided the lines about two-thirds to Howard and one-third to Logue. Howard's marvellously versatile organ of a voice did most of the gods and heroes; his gravel-voiced sorcerer's apprentice took narrative and clowns like Agamemnon.

The modern metaphors of rockets at Cape Kennedy or a man being speared as one detaches a sardine from a tin made one sit up; but so did Homer's contemporary metaphors jerk his audience back into the Bronze Age. And when Apollo strikes ill at nuclear bomb or Achilles, riding to battle, says: "I know I will not make old bones", the hair at the nape of one's neck bristles. It was often as plain and

direct and noble as the real thing. They made a voice come alive across 30 centuries, rather shabby, middle-aged men sitting at a table, standing up and pacing occasionally, and kept us on the edge of our chairs for two hours. Bentley said to Pope: "It is a pretty poem, Mr Pope, but you must not call it Homer." We did better than that on this occasion.

Philip Howard

Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas

Gate, Battersea

How common it is I cannot say, but coincidence must be ruled out. After the first night of Lou Stein's brave adaptation of the drug-crazed novel *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, one of its creatures came drifting past the Gate Theatre on Battersea Park Road. A late-1960 Cadillac, wide and white with sharp, pointed fins, it was a ghost of the war hunter. Thompson called the White Whale as it ferried him to a convention of narcotics officers, through a desert lake and to the casinos of Las Vegas. It certainly belonged there, probably investigating the treatment of the book.

The car or its driver would have found Mr Stein's handling extremely clever and sympathetic, a mix of the book's crystallized narrative and hallucinatory dialogue that make way for both action and reflection by dividing the Thompson character into two pieces. Mr Thompson himself invented an alter ego, a character

named Raoul Duke who ingested the immense quantities of illegal drugs, alcohol and other that gave his pictures of Las Vegas a peculiar, warped clarity.

Cars and desert highways, the Vegas strip, hotel rooms and many other locations are folded neatly into the tiny theatre above the Latchmere public house. Packed with the scenic tour is the book's mad humour, but a vital ingredient missing. Mr Thompson writes like a demented angel, but he is a rioter as well and Stuart Fox is woefully tame as Duke.

Peter Marinker, as the narrating half, suggests more danger but the outside characterization of Duke's bizarre attorney, Chiswick, is the only thing that carries the threat and insights of the writing.

Ned Chaillet

● Noel & Gerie, Sheridan Morley's anthology based on the lives, letters, plays and songs of Noel Coward and Gertrude Lawrence, which had one-night charity performances at the May Fair last year, is to be seen at the Theatre Royal, Winchester, on February 14. It then plays for a week at the Hong Kong Arts Festival. Immediately afterwards, on March 1, it will be given at the Ambassador Theatre on Broadway, in a performance in aid of the American Actors' Fund, the first time they have invited an English company. Proceeds from this performance will also go towards the restoration of Coward's old home in Jamaica. Maria Aitken and Gary Bond play the title roles, and Alan Strachan produces.

Records

Gielgud revisits Brideshead

Next month Argo are transferring 30 items from their spoken word record catalogue on to cassette, together with six new recordings, two of which have been given a pre-release.

Sir John Gielgud, already well acquainted with *Brideshead Revisited* via Granada's magnificent television serialisation, reads an abridged version of Evelyn Waugh's novel on SAY 1. The patrician tones, flecked with more than a little melancholy, fit the text ideally. There is one tiny blemish in the naming of the Satternes Charles and Sebastian drink during that blissful May Day in Oxford — but for the rest it is an admirable reminder of the book.

Robert Hardy narrating four Sherlock Holmes stories (SAY 2), and not the best-known ones either, uses rather more characterization than Sir John. Again the diction is immaculate and the adaptation, which really

means abridgement, has been done with considerable skill. Both issues are good casual listening — in the car, in the kitchen perhaps or even as a cassette at bedtime. The packaging is spartan, but the price, at just under £6 for a double cassette, modest.

John Higgins

Award Winning Venice and Gdansk Film Festivals starring Leslie Caron

THE CONTRACT... directed by Krzysztof Zanussi

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Doris Soffel (left) and Karen Armstrong strongly characterizing at Stuttgart

We need the universities — all of us

"Britain Needs its Universities." Well, surely, 10,000 car bumper stickers can't be wrong; there are supporting facts and figures, after all. Current demand for entry from 18-year-olds far exceeds the number of places available. While a continuing stream of new bankruptcies sadly underlines the depressed and depressing state of industry, the carner sectors continue to make challenging heavy demands on university research capacity.

Neither of these indicators need cause surprise. Where else, on the one hand, is the 18-year-old to look for the education and training to enter such professions as engineering, law, medicine, dentistry? Where else is industry to look for the basic research in pharmaceuticals or oil-rich technology or microelectronics? Industry's own labs cannot provide either the breadth of basic science or usually — the FR5-quality leadership.

Yet the universities are in the process of unprecedented contraction, the degree and time-scale of which are alike spectacularly dangerous. About one sixth of the provision is to be lost over the next two years. This means little fewer places for school-leavers; almost no openings for bright young scholars and scientists to contribute to our culture and scientific progress; a reduction of basic research activity below the level at which universities can contribute to industrial develop-

ment, and the loss of about 5,000 academic jobs. But more: it also means that (through the scale and rapidity of the cutbacks) universities are finding it almost impossible to conduct the rational planning that would enable them to safeguard what is best, what is unique, what is most promising for the nation's future.

So who is raising the alarm? Many MPs. Many thoughtful industrialists. The universities themselves, of course: with the lively risk that their protests are put down to self-interest. But from the public at large there is remarkably little outcry. So if "Britain Needs its Universities", it would seem that Britain as a whole is curiously unaware of it. "Oh, reason not the need," retorted King Lear, when he was told to make large-scale redundancies among his knights and squires. Well, clearly, we must reason it. Our universities cannot expect to thrive unless the public at large understands them enough to feel the need for them — and to feel this need to the extent of actually willing the huge resources required to pay for them.

Universities in this country are deeply vulnerable in being almost entirely dependent on indirect public support (through government funding) and in having done so little to make themselves attractive to direct, public support. Not even the relatively small proportion of the population who have actually experienced university education



By Randolph Quirk

have developed a sense of individual, personal, financial responsibility for the universities that launched them into their careers.

The situation is very different in the United States, where alumnus support is not only a valuable way of maintaining a widely spread and continuing interest in a university, giving individuals a stake in its development: it is a financial sheet anchor. During the 1920s depression, it was on alumnus funds that the great American universities relied to maintain their excellence — and it was on the universities that the United States in no small measure relied to pull the country back into prosperity. If we in the British

universities cannot communicate our need to our own alumni, how can we expect the general public to recognize the need?

Yet the slogan is not mere rhetoric and not mere self-interest. There is no member of the public who does not in scores of ways rely on the universities and their "products". Pervasively this is true of our entire culture, public administration, the media. It is true in respect of a vast range of industrial developments and social services.

If one had to pick out one single respect in which the public should see the need for universities, it would be health. Yet not even this is necessarily obvious. When some demo or other was in the news a while ago, a friend of mine heard someone say that students should be made to clean sewers. When asked if he would want his doctor to have had such "correction", the reply was, "What on earth have doctors to do with universities? They're trained in hospitals".

Well, of course, it's not just that every doctor has been a university student for five years: we simply do not realize how much of the actual treatment in our major hospitals is done by people engaged in university teaching and clinical research.

And if one had to pick out one single university that the public should feel themselves needing, it would be London. Not all that surprising, perhaps, since the University of London is so very much larger than any other and

has such an extraordinarily distinguished staff in its 50 colleges, schools and institutes.

I am not making a special case for making London a special case (though it certainly is). I am concerned only that the man in the street is apparently not concerned. Wherever he lives, there is a one-in-three chance that his doctor is a London product — a still better chance that his dentist is. Perhaps because of London's size and complexity, it is not universally known that places like "Barts" and "Guys" (which are universally known) are in fact part of London University.

Gower Street was a natural choice for filming *Doctor in the House*. When the Wolfson Foundation in 1981 set up a department for the prevention of blindness, it was equally a natural choice to place it in London University's Institute of Ophthalmology.

It is a matter of some urgency that the British people as a whole should recognize that they do indeed need their universities. Not simply as places where their sons and daughters can get degrees — though that itself is important enough. But as the power houses supplying our health services; generating fundamental work in engineering, science, management techniques, legal expertise; underpinning and sustaining what is most precious in our country.

Professor Quirk is Vice-Chancellor of London University.

Divorce: why should a wife be the loser?

The Government is going ahead with reforms to the divorce laws which would curtail an ex-wife's right to indefinite maintenance. Penny Mansfield and Robert Chester argue why the proposal is open to question.

"Who is to bear the cost of the deadly combination of housewife-marriage and serial polygamy practised by persons of modest means?" This is how a contributor to an international conference on the family law summed up the present debate on the financial consequences of divorce.

The courts are now dissolving one marriage in four, divorce is commonplace. Until recently though, family law, welfare provision and popular thought all saw the family in terms of life-long monogamy, nuclear family households and orderly family careers. The explosion of divorce since the 1960s has thrown all this into disarray.

Alimony principle has been attacked from several angles: it is anachronistic when divorce no longer rests on matrimonial fault or blame; it is not a practical possibility since many men default on maintenance payments; it produces hardship for divorced men and their second families; it ignores changes in the economic status of women and encourages notions of dependency.

Undoubtedly present policy is no longer appropriate but are the proposed reforms any more realistic relying as they do on the objective of self-sufficiency for divorced wives?

Advances towards sexual equality have not yet removed the economic disabilities of women. In comparison with men, women have lower earnings, more part-time work, more underemployment in relation to qualifications, fewer opportunities for training and promotion and find less encouragement in their upbringing and environment to accept such opportunities.

These labour market realities face all women but for divorced women they are compounded by economic handicaps which are rooted in the economic structure which leaves the wife as a homemaker dependent on the breadwinner husband.

The Law Commission acknowledged that the prospect of marriage "can serve to influence a young woman's choice of career and accordingly her economic prospects". Early data from a study of newly-weds by the UK Marriage Research Centre shows just how true this is.

There is clear evidence of the priority which both husbands and wives give to the husband's job. Of 38 wives, 38 had changed jobs around the time of marriage. For 10 women getting married meant moving to a new area convenient for the husband's workplace, and making their journey to work impossible. Because of this three wives had become unemployed and three others were underemployed: one physics graduate, for example was working as a laboratory technician.

Like other research, the study shows that while most men and women say they believe that housework should be shared, it is the wife who actually does most of it, even though in the early months of marriage she is probably employed for the

same number of hours as her husband away from home.

Where domestic needs conflict with employment it is the wives who cope by reducing job demands; husbands doing more housework is not seen as a serious solution. The husband might "help out" but he is encouraged to do too much lest it interferes with his work and because it is assumed that domestic responsibilities are ultimately the wife's. Five wives had already altered working hours to suit domestic needs and five more planned to change hours or jobs for similar reasons.

Nearly all the wives expected to leave their jobs during their first pregnancy, and to plan to return to work, even part-time, before their youngest child reaches school age. So they expect to be at home for at least five years and on the whole do not reflect upon their occupational prospects thereafter.

These young wives (all under 30 on their wedding day in 1979) did not explicitly perceive marriage as a secure and life-long career and yet, after only three months of marriage their work adjustments show a clear expectation of economic dependency, particularly while bringing up their children.

In spite of changes in the divorce law and the rhetoric of marriage, traditional patterns live on in contemporary new marriages. Although most brides work until their first pregnancy, they still expect to spend several years exclusively involved in rearing children and tending the home while their husbands work to support the family. Existing employment structures do not allow much variation in the role of housewife marriage.

While it is within the spirit of sexual equality to encourage wives to be economically independent of their husbands it is unsatisfactory that such fundamental change should be engineered through adjustments of the law on maintenance.

In the short term women may find themselves torn between accepting economic dependency while their marriages subsist and preparing for self-sufficiency if it ends. In the long term, the impact may be felt by married men whose freedom to pursue their careers will be diminished when their wives, anxious not to jeopardise their own future prospects, refuse to give priority to their husband's employment.

Whatever the outcome these proposals highlight the confusion and irresolution surrounding public conceptions of marriage and the family. Mass divorce and the new nature of marriage produce the need for systematic consideration of existing law, employment practices and the labour market, child care systems and many other areas of social life which relate to the family.

The implementation of the proposals would continue a process of indirectly reforming the family by piecemeal means, creating new problems and attempting to solve existing ones.

Penny Mansfield is Research Officer at the UK Marriage Research Centre, Central Middlesex Hospital, London. Robert Chester is Senior Lecturer, Department of Social Administration, University of Hull.

Guess which urchin co-starred with Callas

Frank Johnson recalls an unforgettable night at Covent Garden 25 years ago

Experience has taught me that one interesting thing has happened to everyone, but only one. Politicians, most columnists and nearly every actor and actress are under the impression that everything that has happened to them is interesting. Such people are no exceptions to this remorseless law. Only one thing is likely to have happened to them too, if as many as that.

All of which is by way of being an overture to the announcement that the interesting thing that happened to me took place amid the fog of pre-Clean Air Act London 25 years ago this very date when I appeared with Maria Callas in the first of two performances at Covent Garden of Bellini's *Norma*.

The secondary school in Shoreditch of which I was an inmate happened to supply the human material for the children's parts at the Royal Opera House. The qualification for getting into this academy was stiff: one had to fail the 11 Plus. In my day one had to be almost feral to fail it. I shall always be grateful to my early teachers that I managed the feat.

Having won a place in the school, the privileged pupils discovered that, because the rehearsals took place during the day, if you volunteered for the opera, you got out of maths. On the strength of a few mid-1950s television productions, I disliked opera. On the strength of a few lessons, I feared maths. I volunteered for the opera.

My Covent Garden debut was in 1955 as one of the Nibelung dwarfs in *Das Rheingold*. We were required to scream when the late Otakar Kraus, the greatest of Covent Garden Alberichs, cursed the gold. Over the next three years we were the urchins in Act One of *Carmen*, the urchins in Act Two of *Bohème*, the urchins in Act One of *La Traviata*, the urchins in Act One and Two of *Otello*, and both Trojan and Carthaginian urchins at various stages of Berlioz's immense *The Trojans*, wearing in both Troy and Carthage, I seem to recall, the same costume. We were also the aristocratic officer cadets marching around the garden in St Petersburg in which is set Act One of Tchaikovsky's *Queen of Spades*. In this latter case on television convincing, the Shoreditch school being long on urchins and screaming dwarfs, but short on aristocrats.

It was extraordinarily casual. In some of these works we were required to sing. *Carmen*, after all, contains an urchin's chorus of some complexity. But of the vocal arts we were entirely deficient. We simply shouted with the utmost vigour, usually in English, such was Covent Garden's linguistic policy at the time, but in *Otello* in phonetic, cockney Italian. Happily, this dark era in Covent Garden's history has ended, and the school which provides the lads today achieves higher standards.

Early in 1957, we learned that there was an opera coming up which would require only two of us: *Norma*. Apparently the heroine of that name had two children whom she decides to stab to death, changing her mind at the last minute and opting instead for a duet with a mezzo soprano. I and a boy called Arthur were chosen. The choice was dictated by our height rather than innate musicality, which was just as well since no singing was required. Furthermore, Arthur and I had no history of artistic collaboration. Being even smaller than me, he was the one by whom I was always courageously refusing to be bullied.

I embarked on this memoir resolved to be honest, to tell only that which I could remember. So now the sad truth must be faced: of this, the one moment of my life which makes me immortal, I can recall very little. Just a few images in my memory. For it was 25 years ago, and I was just turned 14. So today I never trust the childhood reminiscences of autobiographers.

I remember that there seemed to be something exciting and tense about the atmosphere in the weeks before the performance. Arthur and I were constantly



Norma, High Priestess of the Druids MARIA MENEGHINI CALLAS
ADALISA, a virgin of the Temple EBE STIGNANI
CLOTILDE, Norma's Confidante MARIE COLLIER
The two children of Pollione and Norma ARTHUR MACKENZIE FRANK JOHNSON

Maria Callas as Norma at Covent Garden on February 2, 1957; and part of the programme that night

a final note longer than her in a duet. The latter was untrue, as the books now make clear, but that was no good to Arthur and me at the time. This press sounded like trouble for us. I suppose that this stage in her career, 1957, was the one in which Callas emerged into the consciousness of the masses. She still included "Meneghini" in her name, after the doddery industrialist of some antiquity whom she had married. But the liaison with Onassis lay only a matter of months away, as did Elsa Maxwell's ruinous seducing of her into international cafe society. By 1957 she had slimmed, but the voice, I now know from her recordings of the time, was still full. At 33, she was at her apogee.

As a result of the *Mirror*, household and neighbours were alerted. There was some doubt as to whether Norma Johnston, the latter a singing Irish tenor who used to tell Carmen, "Carmen, oil never lead your said." But we had been the choirboys whom Mr Tito Gobbi had terrified in Act One of *Tosca*, and he had seemed jolly enough, for he had fed us a Italian gob-stoppers during a rehearsal and asked us about football.

Then, probably in the *Daily Mirror*, Arthur and I learned with some consternation that a woman was coming to Covent Garden who was known as the "Opera's Tigress." Furthermore, she had been in a storm in New York. She had got the sack, and the wheels were in accordance with the

fashion of the day. (Pubescent boys take note of such details.) "That's her," Arthur said. "Don't be bloody daft." I distinctly remember telling him. "That's West's secretary." But Arthur was right.

"These are the children," West said to the great soprano of the age. "They're a little big," she replied, speaking I recall with a sort of American accent. At this, West, a somewhat epicurean figure, began to flap his wrists with some consternation. He gabbled something about younger ones not being allowed on stage under British law. Callas snarled at us. Arthur and I cowered. If this bitch gets the boot for baronettes, what would she do to us, we no doubt pondered, I regret, in our rough way.

"I understand," Callas told West, who breathed again. But there was still trouble. It came, however, not from Callas but from the mezzo soprano, the late Ebe Stignani.

She was singing Norma's rival in love, the young temple virgin Adalisa. Stignani was 53 at the time. I now know that she was a singer of much distinction. "Her acting was all in the voice," says my edition of the *Oxford Dictionary of Opera*, which was just as well because she was a short round woman with a terrifying face. "Not understand to him, Maria," she told Callas. "They're too big. Though I cannot claw the precise words back from memory."

Callas replied with something about even the great Stignani having to abide by the law. West giggles.

I forget the actual rehearsal. Indeed, the policy of honesty compels the admission that I remember little of the two performances themselves. But I do recall that when we emerged from Covent Garden underground station, people were already at the barriers offering clusters of 5s notes for return tickets.

And I could not forget that when Callas bore down on us with the knife, her nostrils flared; that when, dropping the knife, she repentantly clasped her bosom, her perfume smelt like that of an aunt who was always kissing me, and that at the first performance on February 2 there penetrated into my left eye, the tip of the diva's right breast, which partnership remained throughout the subsequent duet with Stignani.

In that eye I felt the most distinct pain as that voice of myth and legend rose and fell. In the other eye, all I could see was the exit sign at the far corner of the gallery. At the second performance, I ducked and secured a safer refuge in the mezzanine portion of the diva's bosom.

Furthermore, listening to the loudspeakers which carry the performance to the dressing rooms, I remember coming to the conclusion that the bloodthirsty chorus in Act One, *Dell'aura tua profetica, Terribil Dio, l'informa* ("Inspire her, O terrible God, with your prophetic spirit") was the same tune as *Over the Mountains, Over the Sea, That's Where My Heart's Longing To Be*, to be incessantly heard at the time from Miss Anne Shelton.

And that is all. Still, there are a few men who truthfully say that they made contact with the right nipple of Maria Callas. So it is not necessarily true that someone who has passed much of his adult life in the press gallery of the House of Commons has never glimpsed greatness.

Fianna Fail helps Sile to her seat

More controversy for European MP Sile de Valera. Having been thwarted three times in her attempts to find a constituency in Eire's forthcoming general election, she has now been "imposed" in South Dublin by Fianna Fail's organization committee.

The grand-daughter of Ireland's founding father, Eamon de Valera, formerly represented a Co. Dublin constituency in the Dail, the Irish Parliament, but lost her seat in a big swing against Fianna Fail at last June's general election. She is one of four candidates to be "imposed" in constituencies throughout the Republic.

Mr Seamus Brennan a sitting Fianna Fail member for the South Dublin division, said yesterday he was "surprised and shocked" at the development.

Although still only 27, Miss de Valera has already had a career marked by a number of controversial outbursts. In November 1980, she described Margaret Thatcher's statements on the H block issue as "callous, unfeeling and self-righteous". She also accused the British Government of bungling and hypocrisy about human rights.

She has also criticized successive Fianna Fail leaders for their allegedly soft-line Republican approach, although his does not seem to have won her much grass root party support.



Sile de Valera: "imposed" in South Dublin

Subbed out

Dog may not eat dog, but can still put the bite on pretty hard. *The Freeman*, the circular of the London freelance branch of the National Union of Journalists yesterday published the Street of a complete rundown of the 305 members who were lapsed from membership at the end of last year because their union dues were more than three months in arrears.

It was inexcusable, irresistible *schadenfreude* that made me pick on a couple of the better known names on the list. Bruce Page, editor of the *New Statesman*, was meekly contrite. "I should have paid my sub. They sent me lots of reminders, but I forgot. My

THE TIMES DIARY

Half way through its 13th season, television's weekly potted biog show, *This is Your Life*, is still clocking up viewing figures — viewing figures — 16 million is the average, and Anita Harris, first subject of 1982, drew a mammoth 19.3 million.

The secret of its success, according to its compiler, Eamonn Andrews, is that it remains a friendly, show, topical to the extent that people in the news get a look in alongside the basically showbiz element. It has a back-room staff of 20 and is recorded 24 hours before transmission. Hand on heart, Eamonn Andrews assures me there have been no refusals since Danny Blanchflower turned down the show. Eamonn said no but relented. And more recently a doctor whose dossier was being completed rang up to say his wife was in the process of having a nervous breakdown, so great was the strain of trying to keep it all secret.

They may fit him in next time round.

secretary is putting the matter right, which I hope shows that shame does have some effect on us all.

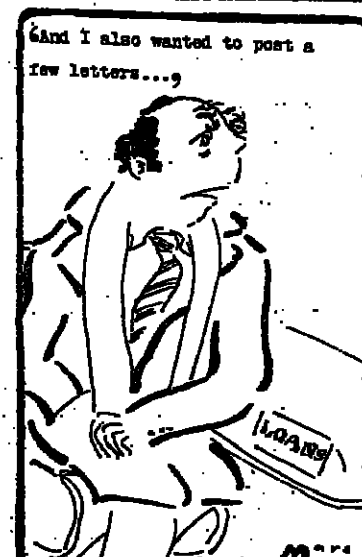
Roger Woddis, contributor to *Radio Times* and *Punch*, said: "I do believe in unity being strength. The last thing I want is to be struck off by the National Union of Journalists, though I only belong because there is not a National Union of Poets or of Satirical Scribes."

Bishop's move

Prebendary Michael Baughen, 51, a London clergyman, who has rewritten the Psalms to modern times and encouraged dance and music in his church, is to succeed the Rt Rev Victor Whitley, who had the reputation of being one of the Church of England's most conservative leaders, as the next Bishop of Chester.

The new bishop is at present rector of All Souls', Langham Place, a centre of the Anglican Church's evangelical movement and of innovation in worship and teaching.

Bishop Whitley, aged 65, who retired in December, was a leading supporter of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, an



land I also wanted to post a few letters...

Holmes for TV

Dame Jean Conan Doyle tells me she has sold the television rights for a series about the adventures of the illustrious Sherlock Holmes to the American film maker Sy Weintraub. Weintraub plans to make the £20m series mainly for American and British television with Otto Plaschke, the Austrian-born producer best known for *Georgy Girl*, *The Bofors Gun*, and *The Homecoming*.

Dame Jean, who was once an honorary ADC to the Queen, has insisted on guarantees that the series (no fewer than 26 parts will be filmed over the next three years) be faithful to her late father's work.

Though Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's works are in public domain in Britain, they are not in the United States. Under new copyright laws there Dame Jean, whose father died in 1930, has been able to extend the copyright up to 75 years from the date of publication.

She said: "I want people to appreciate my father's work in the original though I am aware there will be pastiches, often distasteful ones in this country. But I am happy about the plans for the television series."

Food for thought

I suppose all those commercial attaches in our embassies abroad know what they are doing. But some of the information which they pass on to the Department of Trade in the prearranged cause of assisting British food and

drink exports strikes me as directly run.

I can understand why Afghanistan wants more alcoholic beverages; presumably the Russians have long since drunk the vodka supplies dry. But are we really to believe that Australia is short of frozen food, that Australia needs more confectionery, and that Finland wants to buy herring fillets? What, might one ask, does Cyprus want with glace cherries and the Ivory Coast with cocktail snacks? And why, above all, is France crying out for baked beans?

Good show

The company of *Good*, the last of Glasgow-born playwright Cecil F. Taylor's plays to reach London before his death in December, is to give a special benefit performance at the Aldwych Theatre on March 7 in his memory. The cast will be headed by Alan Howard who has been named Best Actor of the Year in the Standard Drama and Society of West End Theatre Awards for his performance in the RSC production of the play. Eireas Scamell, Felicity Kendal, Jane Asher, Tom Conti and Gemma Jones are among those admirers of Taylor who have agreed to sell special souvenir programmes. The money raised from the performance will go to Taylor's family.

Correction

My apologies for describing Lord Longford recently as an Anglo-Catholic. He is, of course, an English Roman Catholic.

Michael Horsnell



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHO IS TO LEAD THE ALLIANCE?

Throughout last year the Social Democrats made a virtue of their collective leadership. How could one leader, it was asked, make an appearance in all the places where it was necessary to drum up support? How could one person take all the decisions required in setting up a new party? What an ingenious arrangement it was to have four leaders instead of one. Perhaps, it was even suggested on one occasion, this temporary convenience might be converted into a permanent system.

No longer. The Social Democrats have realized that they and the alliance will be at a disadvantage until they have agreed on a single leader. Mr William Rodgers has even proposed that they should dispense with the necessity of an election and agree among themselves that Mr Jenkins should be the parliamentary leader, and therefore the potential Prime Minister, and Mrs Williams the president who would lead the party in the country.

If only one candidate were to come forward for each of these posts that would be all right. But it is unlikely that that will happen, and it would be a grave mistake to take any steps that would prevent or deter anyone from offering himself or herself for the leadership. It would be a different matter if a defeated candidate were not to accept the verdict and were therefore to force a succession of leadership contests. It is that prospect that has attracted so much resentment to Mr Benn in the Labour Party. But when a new party is choosing its first leader there can be no question of disloyalty in anybody standing for election. The case for doing so is all the stronger when the candidate represents a distinctive point of view in terms of strategy and policy.

Considerable criticism in the SDP is directed towards the ambitions of Dr Owen. That he is ambitious is be-

yond question. But he does represent a different point of view from Mr Jenkins in two vital respects: he comes from the more radical sector of the party and he is more inclined to keep his distance from the Liberals. There is no good reason therefore why Dr Owen should not put his claim to the test. The same may be said of Mrs Williams, who may not represent such a distinctive viewpoint but who commands more affection within the party and among the general public.

But while Mr Rodgers may have recommended the wrong tactics, he is surely seeking the best outcome. Mr Jenkins would be the wisest choice as parliamentary leader of the SDP. He has a personal authority within the SDP that none of the other challengers possesses, and so would stand the best chance of leading a united party into the election. He has the stature to be recognized more easily than any of the others by the electorate as a potential Prime Minister; and he is the only person who would be generally acceptable to both Liberals and Social Democrats as the leader of the alliance.

This last consideration is critical. The question that will be asked increasingly of the alliance as the election approaches is whether it looks credible as a potential government. To answer that question satisfactorily the alliance must campaign as much as possible in combination, preferably with a joint manifesto and certainly having announced in advance of the election who would be Prime Minister of an alliance government. Partly because he believes in closer cooperation with the Liberals than do Dr Owen and probably Mrs Williams, and because he comes from an older generation, Mr Jenkins would be readily accepted as leader of the alliance by Mr Steel, who would not serve so happily under any other leader of the Social Democrats. Mr Steel

would himself have many supporters as alliance leader, among the general public and from the ranks of the SDP, as well as in the Liberal Party. But it would not be realistic at this stage to expect former Cabinet ministers easily to accept the leadership of a politician in another party who has never yet held office in any government.

Before Mr Jenkins could be elected parliamentary leader he would, of course, have to be in Parliament. The position at the moment is that the SDP is to hold at the end of next week a constitutional convention at which the draft constitution is to be amended and approved. It will then be sent for endorsement in a ballot of all members. In that ballot the members will be asked to choose between two alternative methods of electing the leader: by vote of the parliamentary party or by all the members of the party. As a matter of principle it would be better for the choice to be left to the parliamentary party. The cause of parliamentary democracy is not best served by transferring power away from Parliament to party activists in the country. But whichever method of election is preferred, it will be some months before the SDP can hold a leadership election.

That would give plenty of time for Mr Jenkins to take his seat if he is elected at Hillhead. If he is not elected there, his personal standing would be much diminished and his eligibility would depend on his winning another by-election before the leadership contest. That would be an uncertain prospect. But if he wins at Hillhead Mr Jenkins would be the best person for the Social Democrats and for the alliance. Despite all their difficulties over the allocation of seats, both the SDP and the Liberals would be wise to think of the alliance as well as of themselves. Together they will look a much more convincing proposition in the next election and beyond.

Lay-off clause in union law

From the Director General of the Institute of Directors
Sir, Your leading article of January 29 stated that the Employment Bill was flawed by the absence of a clause on lay-offs.

I have no doubt that the problem of strikes by strategically placed groups of workers, to which your proposal is addressed, is serious. But the suggested clause would do nothing to rid industry of a more insidious problem: the existence of the strike mentality. Strikes always involve a breach of contract. If all those at work are to be encouraged to honour their contracts it is hardly consistent to make an exception for employers.

The inclusion of a lay-off clause in the Employment Bill would do just that, because it would enable employers to break their employment contracts of their own but at a result of a strategic strike.

Our concern over your proposal also stems from a fear that it may prove divisive. If a strike takes place in the essential

services or amongst a small group of "key" employees, that is the time, in my experience, for the employer to harness the good will of the majority of his employees in order to overcome the problems. To lay off employees who may have had nothing to do with the original strike in order to minimize the cost of a dispute is likely only to create resentment against the employer and so damage industrial relations.

A better course, and one urged by many other representatives of business would be to give some legal backing to procedure agreements. In this way parties to a dispute would be encouraged to reach a settlement within the framework of voluntary agreements, rather than to threaten the sanction of breach of contract.

An amendment is needed to the Bill, but it is more important that this should be related to procedure agreements than lay-offs.

Yours faithfully,
WALTER GOLDSMITH,
Institute of Directors,
116 Pall Mall, SW1,
January 29.

How socialist is the SDP?

From the Reverend Martin Camroux and Mr Robert Lacey
Sir, Last March, disturbed by the way the Labour Party was being destroyed from within, we resigned to become chairman and secretary of South Hampshire Social Democrats.

We believed that the SDP would break new ground while continuing all that had been best in the tradition of Atlee, Bevan and Gansel, seeing it in David Owen's words as "not a Labour Party mark 2, but a Labour Party mark 4".

From the beginning the SDP began to betray the hopes vested in it. The expensive national launch was full of swish PR and bland clichés. Once out of the Labour Party the Gang of Four began to move rapidly to the right. The commitment to equality, central to socialism, was soon compromised by the decision to retain the deeply divisive systems of private health and education. The long-held commitment to economic planning was replaced by a rabid enthusiasm for a deodorized version of laissez-faire capitalism. Quickly, proposals were brought forward for far-ranging curbs on organized labour with no corresponding attack on business malpractices and Grunwick-type employers.

The commitments to social change turned into the belief that consensus and a cessation of political conflict would somehow bind up the wounds of a class-divided unjust society. Now that a nice class of person was taking charge, the wolf would lie down with the lamb and the child play on the hole of the asp.

One did not need David Owen to bring out a new cheap edition of his *Face the Future*, removing all the references to socialism found in the original, to know that betrayal was at hand. Soon at Crosby Green, Shropshire, was campaigning without a trace of her former egalitarianism. For them all, "I am the spurt".

The SPD now stands clearly revealed as a middle-class, right-of-centre party. It most emphatically is not a social democratic

party in the historical usage of the term or by comparison with the social democratic parties of Sweden, Germany or Austria. No democratic socialist can support it without denying or repudiating the heritage they bring from the past. Neither of us will be renewing our membership.

How tragically sad that while the Labour Party is still infected by the intolerant extremism of a hard left wholly alien to its traditions, the SDP should turn out to be a fraud and a delusion.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN CAMROUX,
ROBERT LACEY,
18 Wilton Court,
Shirley,
Southampton.

From Mr Martin Stevens, MP for Fulham (Conservative)
Sir, Mr Tony Benn claims that the Social Democrats are a party of the far right.

He need have no fears. In 120 important parliamentary divisions between April, 1981 and January, 1982, the SDP supported the Government only once (last July, over the European Community Budget). They abstained in nine votes, and were split in five.

They joined Mr Benn and the Labour Opposition in the lobby 105 times.

Yours truly,
MARTIN STEVENS,
House of Commons,
January 30.

From Lady Jeger
Sir, I see from your columns of January 26 that the Social Democratic Party has launched a "think tank" to be called The Tawney Society.

I suppose, this means that members of the SDP think well of R. H. Tawney. But what, I wonder, would Tawney think of them?

Yours truly,
LENA M. JEGGER,
House of Lords,
January 28.

Mixed fortunes

From Professor S. Rees Jones
Sir, The continuing controversy (Letters, January 20, 23) over the authenticity of the "Fortune Teller" attributed to Georges de La Tour, which the BBC intend to include in their 100 Great Paintings series, clearly indicates that stylistic and art historical criteria alone fail to provide a conclusion acceptable to all. It might be thought (and this seems to be in the minds of the supporters of the attribution) that the scientific examination of the materials and the painting technique would resolve the problem, but a critical reading of the technical communication from the Metropolitan Museum yields little reassurance.

We read for example that two tests based on the isotopes of lead were applied to the white lead paint; the one is admitted to be inconclusive, while the other "authenticity of the painting, but does not provide definite proof". In fact, the value of the isotope ratio found is on the borderline of acceptance for a pre-1800 date but well within the statistics for "modern" paint. The sample was submitted to a test (Differential Thermal Analysis) which gives

data on age over the first 100 years or so of the life of a layer of linseed oil paint. The answer was: "more than 100 years". But when the possibility of out and out forgery is under consideration, the first to establish that nothing has been introduced into the paint to stimulate hardening due to age. There is no mention of such an analysis.

The report includes a reproduction of the X-ray photograph of the painting and an interpretation which, curiously, does not refer to what seems to be a fragment of another composition beneath the Fortune Teller thus suggesting that it was painted over a fragment of an old canvas, a not uncommon feature of forgeries.

The above comments are directed at the report's selective use of scientific evidence, only one of which is relevant to the painting (the presence of yellow pigment thought to have become obsolete during the eighteenth century) and not in any way at the painting which I have never seen.

Yours faithfully,
S. REES JONES,
The Ashmolean Museum,
Pall Mall, SW1,
January 27.

Lessons from Lutyns

From Mrs Margaret Richardson
Sir, The Lutyns "debate" is not quite as straightforward as Charles McEwan describes ("Lutyns: a chequered career", January 13). Both Mr McKean and the "motley gang of revisionists" he refers to are equally misguided.

The principal organizers of the Lutyns exhibition certainly did not intend to use the opportunity to point a way forward for architecture or to designate the "heroic period" of the Modern Movement. But it does seem that it is only architectural journalists and some architects over 45 who continue to have any consistent interest in the theories of that movement.

Younger architects turned to other ideas some years ago, and it was because architectural students were taking such an interest in Lutyns and the period around 1930, as well as in a mixed bag of historical styles, that it was felt appropriate to hold a major exhibition of his work. If anything it was too late.

The Architectural Association, for example, has been holding weekly lectures on Lutyns for the past two years: well attended by both students and the profession.

But this is not to imply that younger architects are rushing to build in revivalist styles with methods taken from the Arts and Crafts movement. What they crib from the past are random ideas and details absorbed into a mish-mash of what they already know, and when executed, their buildings are utterly "modern" in technique and conception.

Lutyns's work, particularly, is stimulating as his early vernacular houses are freely composed and very inventive. His Georgian houses are not popular at present, but the oddity of the chequer-board housing in Westminster is rather admired. What is happening in architecture is a complex and subtle development that builds upon the achievements of the Modern Movement.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET RICHARDSON,
64 Albert Street, NW1,
January 14.

Prospects for an Ulster Assembly

From Professor Cornelius O'Leary
Sir, David Watt (feature, January 29) is the latest in a long line of commentators to pontificate about the Northern Ireland situation. It would be well if his knowledge of the subject matched his self-confidence.

In estimating the likely results of an election to an Assembly in the province, if such a device (as is generally believed) were to form part of the Peace Initiative, Mr Watt produces the following "illustrative guesses": expressed in percentages of votes: DUP (Unionist) 26, SDLP (Catholic) 26, Alliance (Nonconfessional) 11, Sinn Féin 6.

By contrast with those figures, out of the top of Mr Watt's head, your readers might be interested to peruse the following percentages of votes cast in the previous elections held in the province: local elections of May, 1981: DUP 26.6, OUP 26.5, SDLP 17.5, Alliance 8.9, Workers' Party 1.8, other republican groups 5.3, other loyalist groups 5.2, Independents and others 8.2. (Source: *The Irish Times*, 1981, 1982, Northern Ireland: the District Council Elections of 1981, Queen's University, Belfast, 1982).

In these results the DUP/OUP together got 53 per cent, not the 57 per cent that Mr Watt would give them. This comparison is sufficiently below the proposed executive "trigger" of 60 per cent to produce a manageable result.

Mr Watt also derides those "wishful thinkers" who believe that "the Protestants in an independent Northern Ireland could be restrained from abuse of their position by remote control of a financial kind from London". Those Protestants in the Northern Ireland Assembly who collaborated with the Catholic members in the Executive from January to May, 1974, far from attempting to abuse their position, worked loyally and honourably together.

The downfall of the Executive was largely due to external factors, Mr Watt's springing a general election in February, 1974, and the failure of the then Government of the Republic to make any move to satisfy Unionist opinion — a failure for which Dr Garret Fitzgerald later publicly expressed regret.

Yours etc.,
CORNELIUS O'LEARY,
Department of Political Science,
The Queen's University of Belfast,
January 29.

Housing policy

From the Director of Shelter
Sir, Mr M. Weale's attack on council housing (January 28) and his assertion that we should give it away to convert the nation into owner occupiers entirely misses the point of the present debate.

Firstly, Mr Weale wants to make available the financial benefits of ownership to all. But those benefits accrue because of the absurdly privileged tax position of home ownership, not just in relation to other housing tenures, but in relation to other forms of productive investment. These privileges encourage some people to consume more housing than they need and ensure that ever larger sums are taken up on behalf of an exchange process not a productive one. Because of the need for more investment those privileges must be reduced and with them the attractions, to some extent, of home ownership.

Secondly, Mr Weale's comparison is between home ownership and public renting. The real dilemma is that the tax exemptions provided for home ownership undermine any sort of renting, public or private. The reasons why that is undesirable is

that renting provides an entirely sensible and worthwhile option for many people at different stages of their lives: young, mobile people, elderly people who do not wish to have to maintain their own homes, people on low or variable incomes. A proper system of renting, which cannot exist until the financial benefits of owning and renting are evened out, would allow such a sensible system to develop different but equally worthwhile characteristics.

Finally, the significance of Mr Weale's letter is entirely undermined by his dubious use of figures. He quotes the rise in council subsidies between 1970 and 1979 yet, on the one hand, subsidies have fallen rapidly in the past three years and, on the other, the 1970s subsidy burden was a temporary one caused by the heavy concentration of costs at the beginning of repayment periods which was the result of rapidly rising interest rates.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL MCINTOSH,
National Campaign for the Homeless,
157 Waterloo Road, SE1,
January 29.

existing main hall, leading to new galleries set at an angle to Waterhouse's plan, seems unnecessary as it is inappropriate.

Let us hope that the trustees and the Government, who are planning to spend £18m on this unsympathetic scheme, will have second thoughts about Waterhouse's masterpiece before it is too late.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN HOWARD,
Chairman of the Historic Buildings Panel,
WILLIAM BELL,
Secretary of the Historic Buildings Panel,
Greater London Council,
County Hall, SE1,
January 27.

profit on their total disbursement and not merely on the bid price.

A further irony arises from the statement in your leading article of January 16 that the auctioneers have assured you "that they are not acting for buyers, merely charging them a premium". The fact remains, however, that VAT is payable on the premium on the assumption that it represents payment for a service rendered by the auctioneer to the buyer!

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP BROADBRIDGE,
London and Provincial Antique Dealers' Association Ltd,
112 Brompton Road, SW3,
January 22.

Why 10 per cent payable to the auctioneers should be beneficial to the maintenance of that position but 10 per cent (as the VAT rate originally was) payable to the Revenue disastrous remains something of a mystery. It cannot be anything to do with the consequential smaller commission charged to vendors for Lord Westminster accepts that buyers can discount the premium.

Contrary to Lord Westminster's view that they rarely do so, it is our belief that, at any rate as far as dealers are concerned, they almost invariably have to do so: after all they have to make a

profit on their total disbursement and not merely on the bid price.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL REES,
86 Woodstock Road, W4,
January 28.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ACKROYD,
43 Lansdowne Crescent, W11.

Proper names

From Mr Edmund Esdaile
Sir, One of the more eccentric postbags is, or at least used to be, that received at the British Museum, of which my father was secretary. He periodically enlisted us at home with examples and after some 50 years I recall that of an inattentive Canadian typist who, having obviously misheard the word Curator, produced, both on the letter and on its enclosing envelope, this address: The Creator, The British Museum, London. The Post Office duly delivered it, forgoing any comment or emendation.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
EDMUND ESDAILE,
53 Surrenden Road, Brighton.

From Sir John Ackroyd
Sir, Before Christmas I received a prospectus inviting me to subscribe to a course in "The Use of Modern English". Study paper 9 in the prospectus covered "Letter writing" and correct forms of address.

The envelope was addressed to Mr J. A. Bart.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ACKROYD,
43 Lansdowne Crescent, W11.

Mapping the future

From Mr John Wright
Sir, The fundamental weakness of the argument put forward in

your leading article (January 20) and by General Edge (January 27), that the Ordnance Survey could never pay for itself, is the failure to distinguish between the quite different functions, users, and distribution of the medium scale contour maps (at 1:10,000 scale and smaller) and the 200,000 or so very large scale uncoloured plans. The maps very nearly pay for themselves; the plans "lose" £20m a year. Similar maps are found in most developed countries; but the large-scale plans and their dense supporting framework are almost unique, being replaced elsewhere by individual title surveys and plans made by private licensed surveyors.

Nearly everybody uses the maps in one way or another, for walking, motorcycling, science teaching, police work and general administration; but to a very large extent the plans are only used by specialist professionals. Who, for example ever saw in real life or on television a policeman using a basic large-scale plan? The maps can be bought in any stationery; the plans can only be obtained from Ordnance Survey agents; and most of the specialist users make their own copies under licence. The main users are engineers, lawyers, architects, planners, and estate agents, and of course HM Land Registry, and the planning, management, and transfer of landed property. The copyright fees form a negligible part of their budgets.

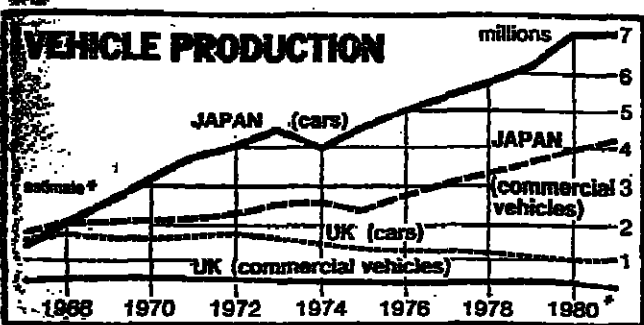
As Sir Dennis Pilcher said in his letter to you of September 9, 1981, which has not been contradicted, these professionals are quite prepared to pay more; and I understand that this view is supported by the Standing Committee of Professional Map Users, who are more worried about a possible lowering of standards. Revenue would of course then depend on the amount of use; but the Land Registry seems to manage quite well on income from the varying flow of property transactions — and because it does not pay the full cost of the basic plans it uses every day.

We are all agreed that now we have this system it would be madness not to keep it in good order, even though other countries manage without it. But it need not be subsidised by the taxpayer, because the cost could be met out of increased copyright fees from its users, in the same way that the other national maps are paid for by those who use them. Whether we should do this is of course a political question; but it is misleading to say that it could not be done.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WRIGHT,
Webbs Farmhouse,
Lakeside Road,
West Wittering,
Chichester,
West Sussex,
January 28.

BUSINESS NEWS

More Japanese cars



Japan's 11 car makers say production targets for 1982 will boost output by 4.6 per cent to 11.69 million cars and commercial vehicles, more than half of them for export. Due to voluntary export restraint to the United States and European Community countries, exports are expected to be 6.11 million vehicles, only a 1.3 per cent increase on 1981's total.

Talbot call for subsidy

Talbot Cars in Coventry has asked the Government for a subsidy to save the jobs of the 1,900 workers at its engine-building plant. The workers have been laid off for the last six weeks because of troubles in Iran which hit Talbot's work on a valuable contract. They have now been given nominal 90-day redundancy notices which will be withdrawn if Government funds are made available.

Meanwhile another 1,500 workers at the company's Ryton assembly plant returned today after being laid off for a fortnight.

Timex ticks for \$125m

Timex Corporation, which manufactures the Nimslo 3-D camera at its plant in Dundee, has agreed to buy 800,000 of the cameras worth \$125m in return for distribution rights in the United States over the next two years. Timex will also take over all warranty obligations for the cameras in the United States, marketing, advertising and promotion of the camera will remain in the hands of Mr Corvin Cianci, Nimslo's executive vice president in charge of worldwide marketing, who was formerly responsible for Polaroid's marketing programme. Shares of Nimslo International on the Unlisted Securities Market rose 7p to 150p on news of the deal. The Nimslo camera has been the subject of concern following the disclosure last November the Dr Jerry Nims, one of the company's joint founders, had disposed of his personal shareholding in the company.

Marry for money

Young married couples are being offered a year's free banking, personal loans at reduced rates, free mortgage valuations, commission-free foreign currency and travellers cheques for the honeymoon, a discount on the purchase of a new car, and a discount on the purchase of a new house. The United Provident Association and advice on insurance and making a will in the latest drive by Barclay's Bank to attract new business.

More spent

Food advertisers increased their spending on television and in the consumer press by almost a third in 1981 to \$509.9m according to figures compiled by Media Expenditure and Analysis, the research company. Financial advertising increased by 44 per cent to \$132.3m. The MEAL list of top advertising agencies was headed by J. Walter Thompson, followed by Saatchi & Saatchi, Garland-Compton,

Unions sound warning on gas prices

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

Gas prices to industry could rise by 60 per cent as a result of the Government's plans to end the British Gas Corporation's monopoly power over North Sea gas, leading trade unionists claimed yesterday.

The warning was given after a 90-minute meeting at the Energy Department at which members of the TUC's fuel and power industries committee told Mr Nigel Lawson, Energy Secretary, of their "root and branch" opposition to the Government's North Sea gas privatisation Bill, being considered by Parliament.

The Bill is designed to pave the way for the sale of shares in the British National Oil Corporation later this year, as well as the ending of British Gas' monopoly purchase powers and the sale of its interests in several North Sea oil fields.

Mr John Edmonds, national officer for the General and Municipal Workers Union, said allowing oil companies to sell North Sea gas direct to industrial customers was likely to lead to "a massive increase" in industry's fuel bills.

Prices could rise from their present levels of between 25p and 30p a therm to between 40p and 50p a therm over the next few years. There would probably be a knock-on effect on domestic gas prices too, it was claimed.

Mr John Lyons, national officer of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, said it was inconceivable that companies such as Shell, Esso and

British Petroleum would have been pressed for the ending of the monopoly simply in order to achieve lower gas prices.

Mr Lawson, however, told the union delegation that he expected gas prices to fall rather than rise, as a result of introducing competition into the North Sea gas market. He said that there was no intention of allowing North Sea gas to be exported, and the Government had powers to prevent this happening.

The TUC leaders denounced all the main features of the North Sea Bill which is now in committee stage in the House of Commons. They said it had no "logic on energy grounds".

They also attacked the privatisation of BNOC, which said they could lessen the public's control of North Sea oil. Ending the gas monopoly could also hit sales of electricity and coal.

The Chemical Industries Association, one of the leading campaigners for the ending of the British Gas' monopoly purchase powers, last night also criticized the union leaders' claim that industrial gas would rise.

The unions based their argument on claims by leading oil companies that they would need between 25p and 30p a therm for North Sea gas to justify exploiting new and so far undeveloped gas fields in the northern part of the North Sea. The highest price British Gas has so far offered any United Kingdom North Sea producer is around 17p a therm.

Support costs oil companies £500m

Petrol prices tumble

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Although the petrol price war is now costing the petrol makers almost £10m a week in various financial support measures to petrol retailers, forecourt prices in some parts of the country are expected to slide further.

Few petrol stations outside rural areas are now charging more than £1.60 a gallon for four-star and prices in many areas are drifting nearer to £1.50.

The number of towns and cities with prices below £1.50 is growing, led by traditionally competitive locations such as Manchester, the Leeds-Bradford-Sheffield area, Walsall and various parts of Kent including Canterbury.

There are signs that prices in Bristol will drop below £1.50 a gallon soon. London prices vary between £1.50 and £1.60 a gallon.

At Norwich-based Mann Egerton, which has a chain of outlets mainly in the Norfolk area, Mr Jamie Campbell, forecourts general manager, said prices seemed to drop virtually every other day in the latter half of January.

Prices vary widely in various parts of the country mainly because of the tempo of local competition. A big influence in Bristol, for example, is the low-pricing policy of the Carrefour hypermarket on the motorway network just outside the city.

A potent factor in Manchester area and on Merseyside is the price-cutting of Telegraph Service Stations, the second biggest national chain of independent petrol retail outlets.

But at present any price below £1.70 a gallon represents mostly support from the big oil companies.

Some companies offer temporary wholesale price

HOW THE PRICES RANGE



reductions while others guarantee a minimum margin to retailers. The various forms of support are now costing the companies the equivalent of £500m a year, according to the Motor Agents Association, the trade body for petrol retailers.

Nobody in the industry seriously quarrels with this estimate which means that Esso, Shell and BP (including National), each with about 20 per cent market share, could be facing support bills of up to £2m a week.

Petrol prices, which had then been rising to £1.70 and above, started to ease as long ago as last September. Support from the first of the MAA's manufacturers started in October.

Behind the price war are several factors. There is an excess of refinery capacity in

Britain. Petrol sales are down, with the hard winter intensifying the slide, forcing the companies to compete hard even to hold their share of the shrinking market.

The oil companies also have a buying advantage with sterling stronger against the United States dollar in which both oil and refined products are denominated.

The big oil companies see the role of the spot market in Rotterdam, source of supply for the smaller independent retailers via some 25 wholesalers, as a key factor in fuelling the price war.

But this sector accounts for barely 3 per cent of the petrol market, according to the MAA. More smaller independent retailers are expected by the MAA to be driven out of business.

Fisons sells off fertilizer division

By Rupert Morris

Fisons is selling its agricultural fertilizer business to Norsk-Hydro of Norway, for £50m, subject to the approval of both boards and shareholders, the company announced yesterday.

Its fertilizer business may have made Fisons an international name, but for the past two years it has also been losing the company money. The division lost £1.1m before tax on a turnover of £1.4m in 1980.

News of the sale sent Fisons' shares up 30p to 210p, and company sources were confident that the proceeds would enable Fisons to wipe out many of its financial commitments, and concentrate on the main growth sectors of its business, headed by drugs.

Fisons' fertilizer division, based in Felixstowe, Suffolk, with plants at Iddington and Apollonmouth, has about 25 per cent of the United Kingdom compound fertilizer market, and 15 per cent of nitrogen fertilizers.

ICI, which claims about 50 per cent of the United Kingdom fertilizer market, which is worth in total between £700m and £800m made public comment but was understood not to expect any big change in the industry.

Norsk-Hydro has promised to retain all 2,800 fertilizer division employees, and to honour all contracts.

Mr John Kerridge, of Fisons, chief executive said: "The fertilizer business will be in good hands as Norsk-Hydro has a strong commitment to agricultural fertilizers."

"Norsk-Hydro will also be an effective competitor alongside ICI, and that is good news from the consumer's point of view."

The rest of Fisons' 7,500 employees work in pharmaceuticals, horticulture and scientific equipment, with a further 2,000 employed in a joint agrochemicals venture with Boots. Fisons says the £50m from the sale should secure the future of these other sectors.

The deal is expected to be completed in the spring.

French prices warning

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) said in Paris yesterday that the effect of France's new economic policies was uncertain and higher wages could push up prices.

Despite recruitment incentives and government moves to increase production, unemployment in 1982 and inflation stabilize until the second half of this year, when it would affect about 8.5 per cent of the workforce, it said.

The comments were made in the OECD's first full assessment of the French economy since the Socialist government of President Francois Mitterrand came to power last June.

Mr Mitterrand pledged to reduce unemployment, which topped two million last October, by creating new jobs, and to revive growth by loan injections.

OECD experts, reviewing the short-term prospects, said unemployment may steady during 1982 and inflation may slow slightly compared with the second half of last year. France's external deficits will probably remain substantial.

"This type of performance is admirable, but not entirely satisfactory," they said. However, the OECD said this outlook should be compared with the trend in the 12 months up to mid-1981.

Moran man presses Lloyd's case

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Mr Reid Wilson, the Lloyd's underwriter whom the ruling committee is trying to expel from membership of the insurance market, is now trying to force Lloyd's to put his case to a vote of members as soon as possible.

Mr Wilson formerly connected with the Christopher Moran Group, was found guilty of "acts and defaults discreditable to him as an underwriter" by arbitrators under the insurance market's disciplinary procedures. To expel him Lloyd's needs a four-fifths vote in favour of the expulsion at a special meeting called under Section 20 of the 1871 Lloyd's Act, but the ruling committee has said it wants to delay this meeting until after the outcome of Mr Christopher Moran's arbitration case, due to start on July 12, is known.

Mr Wilson, who says he has not worked since last June, has sent Lloyd's a letter requesting an extraordinary meeting with 27 signatories including 17 internal and 10 external Lloyd's names. Under the by-laws any member can requisition an extraordinary meeting with 16 signatories.

Mr Wilson said that if his case was not put to members until after the Moran hearing, it would be the end of October at the earliest.



Development cash call

The Asian Development Bank hopes to raise at least \$700m (£375m) this year, mainly on the bond market. Mr Masae Fujioka, its president (above), said yesterday. The bank is owned by 44 members and outstanding loans total \$10,000m.

1983. Mr Fujioka said he would like to mobilize more private funds in cooperative ventures. But he admitted: "To be frank we are not keeping up with the expectations of the Asian people."

Ronson appeal in ACC takeover battle

Holmes à Court losing initiative

By Our Financial Staff

There is a growing feeling in the City that Mr Robert Holmes à Court may have lost the initiative in his bid to take over Associated Communications Corporation.

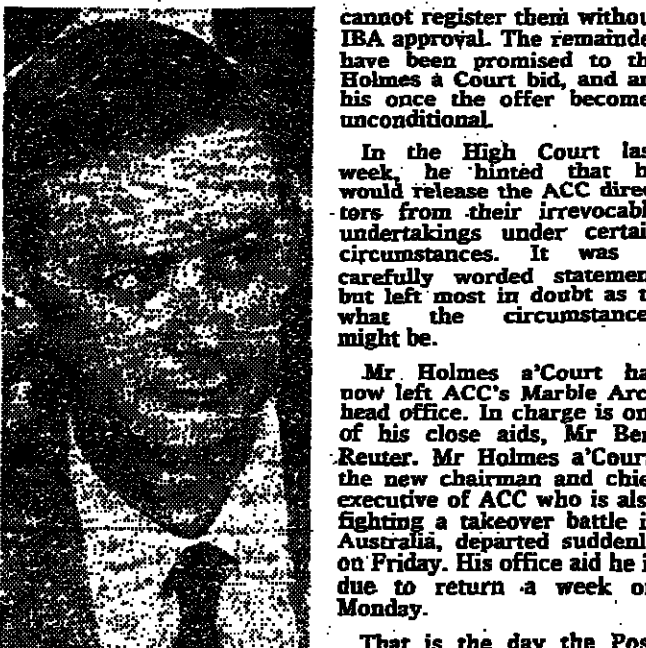
After setting up a considered and seemingly bullet-proof offer he may be prepared to listen to an arrangement on the sale of his 2.2 per cent of the votes and the 51 per cent of the ACC non-voters. He had already said the shares were not for sale, but added that it would be silly to add: "not at any price".

His arch-rival, Mr Gerald Ronson, of Heron, had once again blocked a quick victory for The Australian financier's £36m takeover bid for ACC by lodging an appeal in the High Court yesterday.

His Heron Corporation is attempting to overturn a decision last week by Mr Justice Vinelott which said the ACC directors did not breach the company's Articles of Association or their fiduciary duty by effectively agreeing a shut out offer from the Australian financier.

It is believed that Heron has lodged the appeal, likely to take two or three days, and could start this week, with reluctance.

Mr Justice Vinelott's ruling produced a chink in the apparently solid Holmes à Court armour by saying the deal under a £36m takeover bid by Ronson's Associated Communications (RAC) conditional approval would have been given, was invalid.



Holmes à Court: Ready for offer?

It means the ACC voting shareholders — the bulk of which are directors — must convene a special meeting to formally approve the deal. But there is still a question of who holds the voting rights to the 63 per cent voting shares held by the board.

Lord Grade has agreed to sell his 27 per cent stake to Mr Holmes à Court, but although the sale has been executed the Australian

cannot register them without IBA approval. The remainder have been promised to the Holmes à Court bid, and are his once it becomes unconditional.

In the High Court last week he hinted that he would release the ACC directors from their irrevocable undertakings under certain circumstances. It was a carefully worded statement but left most in doubt as to what the circumstances might be.

Mr Holmes à Court has now left ACC's Marble Arch head office. In charge is one of his close aides, Mr Bert Reuter. Mr Holmes à Court, the new chairman and chief executive of ACC who is also fighting a takeover battle in Australia, departed suddenly on Friday. His office said he is due to return a week on Monday.

That is the day the Post Office pension fund are due to return to court for the full hearing of its opposition to the £750,000 golden handshake package proposed to Lord Grade's former right hand man, Mr Jack Gill.

His return date is also on the eve of a special shareholders meeting, already adjourned twice, to vote on Mr Gill's payoff.

Daily Mail and General Trust PLC

Statement by Viscount Rothermere, Chairman

This last year has seen the full effect of recession on industry both in this country and abroad. Inflation here has moderated but real interest rates, particularly in North America, have achieved an historic high level. Against this background it is pleasing to be able to report that, disregarding the special dividend from Shell received at the very beginning of our previous financial year, our gross Revenue this year from our general portfolio has been more than maintained and net Revenue after expenses and taxation at £2,058,000 shows only a small decrease.

You will notice in the Directors' Report that the Company is now considered to be a close Company for the purposes of taxation. In consequence, the Board intend to distribute materially all of the Company's Revenue after taxation.

After provision for the Preference Dividend, earnings for the year were 30.2p per share (against 31.9p per share last year, of which 1.5p per share was special) and the Board is, therefore, recommending a total distribution on the Ordinary and 7K Ordinary Shares of 30.0p per share, against 27.5p per share last year.

In the last twelve months we have seen the rate of inflation decrease, but now tend to increase again; nevertheless, the world wide recession and high interest rates have allowed no easing of the pressures on profits; happily, exports from the United Kingdom

have continued at a high level.

It is the North American economy, now itself in recession, which has most effect world wide, and the high interest rates there have strengthened the dollar by some 20%, which has helped industry here in its drive for exports, conversely the stronger dollar has meant greatly increased costs to our Associated Company as an importer of newsprint. It has meant also that there has been no relief on the cost of borrowing money, even though industrial stocks are now at much lower levels, and no help to the Gilt Edged market.

During this last year we have realised the Government Stocks held, and we have taken out of the portfolio companies which it seemed likely the recession would affect the most. We have continued to invest more abroad and, from the Balance Sheet, you will see that at the year end we had considerable funds, both in Sterling and Dollars, awaiting the opportune time for investment.

The coming year must inevitably be one where income growth is likely to mark time, but I am hopeful that industry is now in a much better shape to take advantage of the upturn, of which there are just the first signs. We believe the shape of our portfolio will allow us to reap full advantage of the recovery when it happens.

Profit takers move in

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 572.0, down 7.8
FT 100 54.65, down 0.55
FT All Share 327.83, down 3.10
Bargains 20,899

All eyes remained fixed on Wall Street yesterday with the London market dismayed at the latest set of United States money supply figures.

This appears to have ended, for the time being, last week's optimism about a Wall Street revival and has left economists undecided about which way United States interest rates will move next.

So equities decided to play it safe, and with two weeks of the account left to run, profit takers were abundant. The FT Index, which last week appeared set to break its all-time high, closed 7.8 down at 572.0.

Gilt also had their fair share of sellers with prices losing as much as 21 in longs and 2 1/2 in shorts as the pound came under renewed selling pressure.

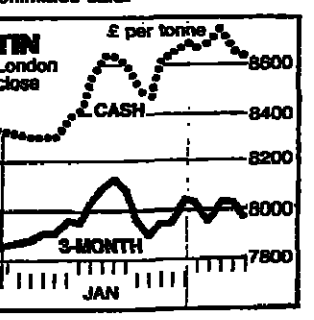
An early feature was Fisons, a speculative stock which announced the sale of its fosamit fertilizer subsidiary for £50m. This produced an immediate flurry of takeover gossip, which lifted the price 30p to 218p. The German chemical group Bayer has long been tipped as a likely candidate.

Elsewhere, ICI, down 12p at 330p, was paying £13m for Arthur Holden, the laquer and paint group. Holden, the subject of a takeover bid earlier this month by International Paint, which netted 12 per cent of the shares, rose 24p to 168p.

Michael Clark

COMMODITIES

● The Tokyo Gold Exchange, scheduled to open on March 23, is expected to trade 240 tonnes of gold annually in futures transactions, its preparatory committee said.



● Dealing in tin yesterday was dominated by cash selling, which stabilised the price at around £8,600 a tonne. The Forward closed at £8,597. The market was slow, the market was influenced by the continued presence of heavy cash buyers and the availability of physical tin. The three months standard price ended the day at £7,965 a tonne, slightly reducing the backwardation. Traders were willing to "lend" metal, so carries were an important part of turnover.

TODAY

UK official reserves. CBI monthly trends. Capital issues and redemptions.

OTHER EXCHANGES

Hongkong: Hang Seng Index: 1,418.02, down 1.40
Singapore: 661.47, up 4.10

CURRENCIES

● The dollar was strong on the back of higher US interest rates and Polish uncertainties.

LONDON CLOSE
STERLING \$1.8615 down 1.95 cents
DM 4.3775
Fr.Fr. 11.12

Yen 433
DOLLAR Index 110.9 up 0.7pts
DM 2.3448 up 443 pts
GMD \$379 up \$4.75

MONEY MARKETS

● The Bank bought £535m of bills in response to a £500m shortage, lowering its dealing rate to 13 1/2 per cent in Bands 3 and 4.

Domestic Rates:
Base rates 14%
3-month interbank 14%-14 1/2%

Euro-Currency Rates:
3 month DM 15%-15 1/2%
3 month Fr.F. 10%-10 1/2%

MONEY BROKING

Mills & Allen move to fight overseas rivals

Money broking in London awoke to the reality of negotiated commissions last month. The first move to form a group large enough to withstand the onset of international competition has come from Mills & Allen, the poster and money-broking conglomerate that emerged from the J. H. Vasseur group. It has announced two acquisitions that, in its own words, "takes it up to the Mercantile House and Exco ranking". The City was interested, but will not award it that sort of star status.

Mills & Allen has bought Guy Butler, a London-based money broking business, and Chappelaine, an American government bond and securities broker which will give it a very widespread wire network, one on which it has been working for a year.

On the news, the share price of Mills & Allen rose from 48p to 50p. Analysts are still leaving it at the rating of 9.5, compared with the rating on Mercantile, for example, of twice that.

It is buying Guy Butler from Sime Darby for £10.8m. Payment will consist of 1.5m new Mills & Allen shares and £5.3m in cash. Sime Darby will retain a 10.7 per cent



Money brokers: negotiated commissions mean larger groupings

most popular international investment at present.

It has a network which offers dealing facilities from 500 terminals in 62 cities. It has pretax profits for the nine months ended November 30 of \$3.2m before bonus payments. Bonuses will be running at about one third of pretax profits. Net tangible assets on that date are estimated at \$235,000.

While this new group will not have the sort of collection of in-house services that Mercantile House can offer, it can lay its hands on expertise ranging over a similar field, including commodities through Sime Darby.

Mr Clive Hollick, managing director of Mills & Allen said that as a result of the acquisition

Growth pays off for supermarket group

With a chairman who is a director of the Halifax Building Society and a managing director who is a grandfatherly figure in the business, the Yorkshire-based supermarket group appears to be a firmly established Yorkshire institution.

And though the group boasts stores as far south as Corby and even one in Oldham, Lancashire, its operation is centred in Yorkshire. It has steadily increased its share of the market to around 10 per cent.

A move up-market three or four years ago into more high quality products appears to be paying off for the group which now has a total of 39 stores, 23 of which are over 10,000 square feet in area.

Development is still resolutely Yorkshire-based with two new large stores, at Buttershaw, near Bradford, and Skipton planned to open in the autumn.

Peter Hartley, managing director, said the board looked at about 60 development sites at a time, from which two or three would be suitable. Lancashire was already well-served by supermarkets, and expansion was more likely in the East and West Midlands, he said.

Growth has been strong in the recent past, with pretax profits for the half year to November up by 28 per cent from £1.7m to £2.2m and sales up 16 per cent. This has been reflected in an increased interim dividend, up to 1.42p gross per ordinary share from a scrip adjusted dividend of 1.07p gross last year.

This strong performance and a reputation in the City for being a well managed group has caused Hilliards frequently to be the subject of takeover speculation.

According to Mr Gordon Hunter, the chairman, this is a wholly spurious and with a market capitalization of around £39.6m the group represents a fairly indigestible chunk for any but the very largest in the retail food sector.

The ordinary shares of the company rose 4p ahead of the results to close the day at 162p.

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Drew Johnston



INDONESIA

Britain has offered to help develop Indonesia's mineral resources, but while welcoming the offer, Indonesia has said that it will use foreign technology, capital and personnel only if domestic sources prove insufficient.

This was revealed by Mr Subroto, Indonesian minister of mines and energy, at the conclusion of his talks with Lord Carrington, the British Foreign Secretary, who is currently touring Asian member countries.

NETHERLANDS

Nederlandse Gasunie is seeking to import only 2,000 million cubic metres of Soviet natural gas a year from the mid-1980s instead of the 4,000 million it originally sought. This stems from the failure of the Soviet Union to place orders with Dutch companies for equipment for the proposed pipeline and from Dutch gas being lower than initially expected.

FRANCE

The EEC Commission has allowed France to impose a ban on indirect imports of radios, including cassette-radios, made in Taiwan and Hong Kong which have been routed through other EEC countries until August 31.

AUSTRALIA

The Tern Two oil well in the Bonaparte Gulf off North Australia has produced gas from between 7.20 million and 14.90 million cubic feet per day, Elf Aquitaine (Australia and New Zealand) its operator, said.

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Arabia, which has a population of about 10 million, imported 350,000 vehicles valued at \$250m (about £1,350) between September 1980 and 1981 according to the Saudi ministry of finance and national economy.

CHINA

China is offering extra interest to private individuals in an attempt to raise 4,000m yuan (about £1,230m) from a domestic bond this year, the New China News agency said.

JAPAN

Jetro, the semi-official Japanese external trade organization, has set up a task force to deal with complaints from foreign traders in Japan's latest move to ease trade friction with the West.

Bridgestone Tyres of Japan is studying the possibility of buying the Firestone factory in Nashville, Tennessee. It denied a report that basic agreement has been reached by the two companies and a formal signing would be made later this month.

Japan's gold and foreign exchange reserves stood at \$242.5m (£15.10bn) at the end of January, a decrease of \$158m from a month before.

ARTHUR HOLDEN

ICI bid of £12.8m lifts shares

ICI has launched an agreed £12.8m bid for Arthur Holden & Sons, a Birmingham based lacquer and coatings firm. The offer brings ICI up against its old rival Courtauld, which fought to prevent an ICI takeover of its own business in the 1960s.

The bid comes less than a month after International Paint, the highly profitable Courtauld subsidiary, picked up a 12 per cent stake in Holden in a dawn raid carried out by brokers W Greenwell. At that time International said it was looking for closer links and a possible merger, although the move was not welcomed by Holden, according to Mr Phillip Sturge, chairman.

The acquisition of Holden by ICI would give ICI a greatly strengthened position in the European coating market, which Holden dominates in the United Kingdom and France, while ICI has a strong presence in Germany through its Hermann Wiederhold subsidiary.

The terms are 180p cash per Holden share, or an equivalent number of ICI shares, and though ICI does not have a stake in Holden, acceptances from directors and friends accounts for 34.8 per cent of the equity.

The Holden board has been assured by ICI that the rights of its employees would be safeguarded, and that no

redundancies were foreseen as a result of the offer.

The prospect of a possible battle for control between ICI and Courtauld, sent Holden's shares leaping 21p to just over the bid terms at 181p. At this level they are more than 70p above their level just before International made its move.

International picked up its shares at 150p with a total of 7.9 per cent coming from McLeod Russell and the remainder believed to have come from institutional sellers.

Besides International, and the board the only substantial stakes in Holden are held by Manders (Holdings) with 6.5 per cent, and Metal Box, a major customer of Holden, with 9.3 per cent.

Reed International

£7m takeover

Reed International, the paper and publishing giant headed by Sir Alex Jarrett which has three quarter figures due today, has agreed terms for the £7m takeover of St Regis Newspapers.

The group is a subsidiary of the United States based St Regis Paper Company and publishes local newspapers in the North West of England, South Yorkshire and Teesside.

Consent for the acquisition will be sought from the Department of Trade under the 1973 Fair Trading Act.

Reed's previous acquisition of a newspaper group - in which it paid News International £13.3m for the Barrow's Organisation - has been halted by the Monopolies Commission until Reed dis-



Sir Alex Jarrett, chairman of Reed International.

posed of its West of England newspaper subsidiary.

But Mr Kenneth Morton, a Reed director, said that this sort of problem would not arise again since there was not a geographical duplication which had been the case in the West Country.

St Regis Newspapers for 1981 was £11.8m and profit before tax £815,000.

The group, which will be the third provincial chain acquired by Reed, operates through three subsidiaries and its titles include the *Holmer Evening News*, the *Doncaster Free Press*, and the *Teesside Times*.

It confirms Reed's continuing interest in regional newspapers, which have suffered the double blow of loss of classified advertising and declining circulations, but which are believed by analysts to have good recovery prospects.

GOPENG

End of an era

Gopeng Consolidated, the Malaysian mining company, has agreed that Perak state should take a 30 per cent stake in the company. Gopeng will also pay \$51.25m (£293,000) to the state to reorganize and ensure its mining work.

The agreement marks the end of an era. Gopeng is the last of the once influential group of British tin mining companies working in Malaysia to be based in London.

But this arrangement, ostensibly taken to comply with Malaysia's New Economic Policy, effectively transfers control to Malaysia. Last year the Malaysian government merged, and took control of, Malaysian Mining Corporation and Malaysian Tin Dredging, the country's biggest tin miners.

But the agreement is also intended to ensure Gopeng's future. Gopeng held about 200 small mining leases, many of which had either expired or were about to expire. These leases are granted by the Perak state government. Gopeng hopes that it will now be able to consolidate these leases in only two or three agreements, allowing mine managers to plan mine development more efficiently over the next 10 years.

The shares rose 3p to close at 63p on the news, although they fell back later.

Under the deal, Gopeng will issue the Perak State Development Corporation with 1.7m shares, or 30 per cent of the enlarged capital. This will dilute the 55 per cent of the equity held by British residents.

But it will also dilute some of the big Malaysian shareholders. Straits Trading has 16.5 per cent, Tronoh Mines has 9.8 per cent, and Multi-Purpose Holdings 12.9 per cent.

In the year to the end of September, Gopeng's pretax profit went down from £4.66m to £3.23m. Production of tin concentrates fell from 1,922 tonnes to 1,697 tonnes. Malaysia produces about 60,000 tonnes of tin a year.

The \$51.25m to be paid for renewal and consolidation of mining leases will also allow Gopeng to convert some of its land under rubber cultivation to tin leases. New licences were previously granted largely as a matter of course.

BUNZL

US takeovers

Bunzl, the pulp and paper group, yesterday announced it had spent \$5.6m (£2.9m) on two US companies and expects to spend more in America this year.

Since buying the Jersey Paper company last April, for £3.5m, the group has used it as a spring-board to buy a major share of the North-East American market.

The group estimates that this year sales of the industrial paper products of US offshoot, Bunzl Corporation, could reach £53m, without further acquisitions which the group expects to make.

Last year, Bunzl reported a £2m rise in pretax profits for 1980 to £11.1m, a half-year to June, profits came out at £6.9m, on a turnover up from £85.9m to £100m.

Bunzl has now bought published profits of £480,000 sales of £16m and net assets of £2.4m for an initial £2.5m, with £240,000 deferred over three years.

It is buying Florida-based Palm Beach Paper, which distributes disposable paper and plastic products and New York City-based E. Greene, a division of Saxon Industries which distributes plastic products to the New York food service industry and the industrial and retail packaging industries.

Bunzl have also announced its Brazilian company, Filtrona, has trebled capacity for making collapsible plastic tubes by buying one of its major competitors.

CRODA

Another salvo

Croda International has made a further attempt to persuade its shareholders not to accept the terms being offered by Burmah Oil, saying that the board is preparing profit forecasts which will be produced before the first closing date of the offer.

"We already know enough about our prospects to be confident now that the shares should stand as well above the offer price after the offer lapses", the Croda board says.

In this letter, Sir Alistair Down, Burmah's chairman, acknowledged the "knock-out" terms of Croda's initial reply, but reminded



Sir Frederick Wood, chairman of Croda

shareholders that the shares had never reached the price being offered by Burmah.

Sir Frederick Wood, Croda's chairman, claims in his letter that the Burmah document was full of misrepresentations and repeats his previous point that there are no other United Kingdom listed companies with net tangible assets of over £50m which have ratios of gross borrowings-to-capital as high as Burmah's 177 per cent.

He adds that Burmah appears to be trying to bamboozle shareholders by saying that its 70p-a-share offer produces a high exit price, earnings multiple of more than 15 and a low dividend yield. He also says that the chemical sector has an average P/E ratio of 20.1 and a dividend yield of 5.29 per cent.

Meanwhile, neither side in the battle appears to know how to respond to the intervention of the White Collar Union the Association of Scientific, Technical and Management Staffs under new employment protection regulations.

But the move has come as no surprise to the Institute of Directors which wrote to Mr Norman Tebbit, Employment Secretary, warning him of the possible implications.

Mr Tebbit replied by saying that the risk of injunctions being applied for and granted was slight.

BIDS AND DEALS

Leadenhall Sterling is recommending an offer by Hays Group of 125p cash for each Leadenhall Sterling share. The offer values the whole of Leadenhall at \$5.6m.

Bricom Investments, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the British and Commonwealth Shipping, has given an irrevocable undertaking to accept the offer in respect of its holding amounting to 79.3 per cent. Hays intends to continue and develop the main business of Leadenhall, and to safeguard the interests of employees.

F. J. C. Lilley has acquired 90 per cent of the capital of Harold Dessau Inc. of New York for \$3.7m (£1.7m) cash. The remaining 10 per cent of Dessau is owned by Mr Frederick Wincock, Dessau's chief executive. The Dessau companies are merchants and suppliers of tools and equipment for the construction and oil industries in the United States and overseas.

In the two years to June 30 1981, Dessau's profits before tax averaged \$850,000 on sales of US \$11.5m and at that date net assets totalled US \$1.8m.

POLY PECK (Holdings) Co., has

acquired a freehold building at 41/42 Prescott Street, London, E.1. as part of its policy of centralizing and expanding the production and sales of its textile division. The property was acquired for £350,000 cash on the open market out of existing resources.

Lincroft Kilgour Group is to sell to the British Petroleum Pension Trust its freehold property known as 10 Golden Square, 6, 7 and 8 Lower John Street and 7-8 Warwick Street, London. The sale price of the property is £1.3m but, as the value of the property exceeds 25 per cent of the net assets of the LKG Group, the sale is conditional on the approval of LKG shareholders.

Charterhouse Group has acquired Electrolux (Security) and Autoklub Manufacturing from Mr and Mrs C. H. Goddard, who founded the business four years ago. Electrolux and Autoklub, which are based in Cheshire, specialise in installing and servicing electrical locking security systems for commercial premises including banks. Initial consideration of £250,000 satisfied by issue of 301,204 ordinary shares.

tax increases and the severe recession in the UK. When translated into the strengthened dollar, however, Gallaher's sales were lower than 1980.

La Rinascente, the leading Italian chain store group, reports a 20 per cent rise in turnover in 1981 to 1,336bn lire, despite an actual drop in demand for non-essential goods. The company, confirming previous unofficial reports, said that the significant increase in the turnover was chiefly due to sharply higher sales of foodstuffs and clothing.

CAPITAL MARKETS

Morgan Grenfell has recently

concluded the negotiations and signed loan agreements for three new lines of credit to Cuba, Czechoslovakia and Egypt and for two project related loans to Nigeria and Oman. The company, which is a subsidiary of the arrangement of ECGD-supported loans to finance a wide range of UK exports to countries around the world. The total value of these facilities is £18.3m. The three lines of credit are - all general-purpose lines with the support of the Exports Credits Guarantee Department and are to assist in the financing of capital and semi-capital goods and associated services from UK companies.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profit	Div	Pay	Year's total
Cont. & Ind. Tel. (I)	1,141.19	1,911.43	43.5	2/2	(11.0)
Elect. Machine (I)	1,141.19	0,059(0.052)	1,91.6	(—)	(—)
Flag Inv. (I)	—	0,480.53	(—)	(—)	(—)
Kellogg Tel. (F)	52,946.9	0,340.3	0,010.06	5/4	0,180.06
Longford Ind. (I)	2,682.63	6,096.31	110.75	2/4	0,263
Longford Ind. (I)	18,419.3	0,280.3	0,50.55	18/3	(1.3)
R. H. Morley (I)	1,841.43	0,250(0.055)	1,220.0	(—)	(—)
Regional Props. (I)	—	0,980.92	0,80.75	2/4	(2.2)
Renwick (I)	33,936.27	0,340.284	2,78(4.4)	(—)	(—)
Textured Jersey (I)	5,546.78	0,320.41	1,71.7	2/4	(5.5)
Whitworth Elec. (I)	7,016.04	0,180.15	20.83	(—)	(1.5)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on company profits. Shareholders in business dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.25. Profits are shown pretax, and earnings are net = Loss = Adjusted.

COMMODITIES

COPPER was steady. Afternoon: Higher grade cash, 500-540; three months, 500-540; six months, 500-540; one year, 500-540. Standard grade cash, 500-540; three months, 500-540; six months, 500-540; one year, 500-540. Morning: Higher grade cash, 500-540; three months, 500-540; six months, 500-540; one year, 500-540. Standard grade cash, 500-540; three months, 500-540; six months, 500-540; one year, 500-540.

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MEAT COMMISSION

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POTATOES

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Profit taking

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 25. Dealings End Feb 12. Contango Day, Feb 15. Settlement Day, Feb 22

[illegible]

Rugby Union

Beaumont meets his Waterloo and England acquire new general

By Peter West

Rugby Correspondent

Steve Smith, the Sale and Lancashire scrum half, was named last evening as England's captain for the first time since 1974.

The news was given by Budge Rogers, chairman of selectors, before the England squad trained at Stourbridge, and at the end of a day during which the Rugby Football Union had announced that Bill Beaumont, after his head injury in the County Championship last weekend, would not be playing in the international.

Mr Rogers said: "He is captain of the County team, and we know how he has got the confidence of the players, and it will be a popular choice to have him in the international. He has been a replacement in 1972, Smith won the likes of Mase, Villiers, Genter, Duggan, the Spangheros brothers, and the rest. There are no genuine rugby heroes, lives excepted, who have played the same game as he has. Beaumont has lost his Gallic joie de vivre."

The French XV has played in the four years since Beaumont's Club. For the past decade the national club competition has been dominated by one club, Biarritz, who have won the championship on nine occasions. Their style is based on a powerful and efficient pack with the half-backs kicking in support. Guided by their success, and instead of developing the virtues of the traditional characteristics for the running game, Biarritz have attempted to emulate Bezziers.

Such power rugby brought success in the form of the Grand Slam under Beaumont's captaincy in 1977, but it did not endear itself to the minds and hearts of Frenchmen, and after the euphoric disappointment set in, it was argued, it had been at a price. Even though Jean Pierre Rives has attempted to bring his influence to bear by expanding the game, he has been limited in what he can achieve by the choice of players at his disposal.

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North over the All Blacks in 1972 and 1979.

He had a splendid tour of Argentina last summer. Like vintage wine, he seems to be maturing nicely in his 31st year. Happily, there is no threat to Beaumont's rugby career, and with luck he will be playing again on Saturday week, all set to return to England duty against France in Paris on February 20. But the RFU could count on only one decision after their doctor, Leon Walkden, had spoken with the leading psychiatrist who examined Beaumont yesterday morning, and advised him that it would be foolish to play this week.

It has been the Union's policy to recommend rest of at least a fortnight for those receiving concussion. Beaumont's injury was the case when Mike Stemen was concussed in the Australian international. Beaumont was in the line of play when the day at his family textile business in Lancashire. Beaumont looked in his usual state of well being and good cheer when joining the England party at Stourbridge. I had the full treatment—X-rays, scans, the lot," he said, and it was a great relief to get the specialist's verdict that he was giving me a complete bill of health."

Beaumont will be at Twickenham on Saturday. Since his return from South Africa in 1980, other high points in his career, including a late call to join the Lions in South Africa in 1980—though he played no game—were the victories of North West Counties and the

Syddall, who is 25, will be happy jumping at No 2 in Beaumont's position at the lineout rather than at No 4, where he stands for Lancashire. As Beaumont observes, Syddall has proved himself a stern competitor in some good class rugby, not only in 26 appearances for his county, but in two for the North. He was on the right side of a famous victory by the North over the All Blacks in 1979. He has also played for the England 19 and 23 groups and for the B side. He is a quantity surveyor with the Atomic Energy Commission.

Syddall said: "It is great to be awarded that white shirt, though the delight is reduced by the fact I am there only through Bill's injury. Still, many great players have worn that shirt, and I am proud to wear it. I am a professional, and I will play for my county, but I will not make an official complaint against his attacker. Doctors warned the 29-year-old teacher not to play again this season. He will have more tests for blurring vision. The Welsh-born Devon flank forward does not want to know who injured him. "Senseless violence like this makes me want to give up the sport. It's a war's game and I expect to take knocks, but I have never come up against anything as vicious as this. I was walking back from a ruck when a fist came over my shoulder and smashed into my face for no reason. I was out for the count and neither the ref nor any of our players saw the culprit."

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To understand this, rugby in France can no longer rely on a ready-made enthusiastic audience. Attendances at club matches have declined. There is also a shortage of gates for the All Blacks. For the first international in Toulouse the stadium was half empty, which is unheard of in that region of France.

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The referees also are concerned. Earlier this season, Marcel Puget, a former international and now a referee, had to be escorted from a stadium for his assault. It is not that winning is made to be too important, it is that losing is considered so dramatic.

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Unacceptable face of rugby: Gareth Jones, the Torquay Athletic captain, who had a blood clot in his eye and needed 20 stitches in his brow and eyelid after being knocked out in the first minute of a rugby match against Cambridge at the weekend, will not make an official complaint against his attacker. Doctors warned the 29-year-old teacher not to play again this season. He will have more tests for blurring vision. The Welsh-born Devon flank forward does not want to know who injured him. "Senseless violence like this makes me want to give up the sport. It's a war's game and I expect to take knocks, but I have never come up against anything as vicious as this. I was walking back from a ruck when a fist came over my shoulder and smashed into my face for no reason. I was out for the count and neither the ref nor any of our players saw the culprit."

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Football

History can repeat itself for Chelsea

By Keith Macklin

Westwood 1

Chelsea 2

The 1,000 Chelsea supporters who cheerfully and noisily defied the travelling ban are convinced that history is about to repeat itself. In 1978 Liverpool travelled to Stamford Bridge in the third round of the FA Cup and were demolished 4-2.

Liverpool make the trip again in the fifth round on Saturday week and although Chelsea's victory last night was sloppy and unimpressive, their supporters are confident that they will repeat the feat.

Goals from the giant Drogba and Mayes gave Chelsea a 2-0 lead in a game which largely lived and uneventful full of frantic endeavour but little cohesive skill. The Chelsea defence, however, was superb, with the towering Victor Kluhmann setting up a furious late rally.

After 15 minutes Westwood suffered a decisive blow when his corner forward Edwards left the field injured. Steve Jones took his place. Chelsea's attack was a chance to score when they lost possession with a lot of room to shoot away from the goal. Chelsea's first half goal came from a free kick and not a set piece. It was a brilliant strike by Drogba, who headed the ball into the net.

Just before half time a fight erupted in the Chelsea penalty area when Steve Jones challenged Gareth Jones, and the referee sent a night club bouncer, who was cautioned by Mr. Midgley. Chelsea's 1-0 lead at half time and the Chelsea defence continued to scurry about, all energy and no purpose. Their supporters audibly resigned themselves to a dull and possibly third division football next season.

Mayes should have scored a second when he headed over the bar from a perfect cross from Rhoades-Brown, but he redeemed himself shortly afterwards. Downman's header was deflected into the Chelsea goal by the goalkeeper.

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Today's television and radio programmes

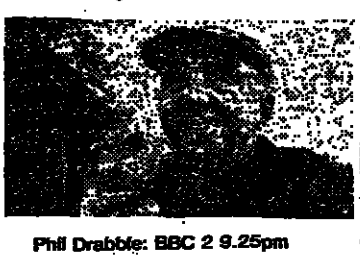
Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1

9.05 For Schools, Colleges: Spanish conversation. 9.55 French language. 9.55 Spanish conversation. 10.10 Look and Read. 10.35 Religious and Moral Education. 11.00 With Captain Cook on his final voyage of exploration. 11.17 Television Club. 11.35 Shakespeare in Perspective: Measure for Measure. 12.05 Willy Russell — playright. 12.30 News After Noon with Richard Whitmore and Moira Stuart. 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only). Financial report and news headlines with subtitles. 1.00 Pebble 2 at One With two explorers — Roger Chapman and John Blashford-Snell. 1.45 Bod and the Cherry Tree. For the very young (7). 2.00 You and Me. For four and five-year-olds. 2.15 For Schools. Classics: Electricity in Music. 2.40 Communist! The cartoonist. 3.00 Interval. 3.10 Tomorrow's Ties. Welsh comedy series. 3.40 So You Want to Stop Smoking? (7). 3.53 Regional news (not London).

BBC 2

11.00 Play School presented by Sarah Long and Don Spencer. The story is Mirror Mix-Up by Margaret Joy. 11.25 Crossroads. 3.55 Reflections: Ireland. A view of the country by Irishman Patrick Carey (7).



Phil Drabble: BBC 2 9.25pm

ITV/LONDON

9.35 For Schools: Visiting an amusement park. 9.53 City Life in poetry and song. 10.18 Simple Maths. 10.35 Part four of Macbeth. 11.03 Basic Maths. 11.22 Birdwatching in London. 11.39 German conversation. 12.00 Sutton Moon. Space adventures for the very young. 12.10 Let's Pretend. The difference between a 666-saw and a bench. 12.30 The Southern Cross. A series of short stories. 1.00 News. 1.20 News. 1.30 Take the High Road. Drama series set on a Highland estate. 2.00 After Noon Plus. Mavis Nicholson and Trevor Hylton are joined by journalists Anthony Howard and Peregrine Worsthorne in a review of the month's news. 2.45 Born and Bred. The Tonkeys and the Benges are thrown into confusion when an aging chorus girl turns up (7). 3.45 Welcome Back, Kotter. American high school comedy series starring John Travolta.

3.55 Play School. For the under fives (shown earlier on BBC2).
4.20 Cartoon: Secret Squirrel in Not so idle idyl (7).
4.25 Jackanory. Tony Aitken reads part two of The Eggbox. Brocton. 11.00.
4.40 Animal Magic. Johnny Morris and Terry Nutkin take a look at animals past, present and future.
5.05 John Craven's Newsround.
5.15 Grange Hill. Episode nine of the secondary school drama.
5.40 News with Richard Baker. 6.00 South East at Six. 6.25 National news introduced by David Dimbleby and Frank Bough.
6.55 Cartoon: Bugs Bunny in Hare Devil Hare.
7.05 Doctor Who. Part two of Kinda starring Peter Davison and Richard Todd.
7.30 A Question of Sport. A quiz between two teams — one led by Bill Beaumont, the other by Willie Carson.
8.00 Terry and June. Domestic comedy series.
8.30 Solo. Felicity Kendal stars as Gemma — a liberated lady (7).

4.15 A Year in the Life of Viscount Weymouth (7).
5.05 World Skilling Championships: David Vine introduces highlights of the Men's Combined Slalom from Haus, Austria.
5.40 Laurel and Hardy in Below Zero* (1930). They find a bulging wallet in the street.
6.00 The Walltons: Stories centred on a hill-billy family during the Thirties and Forties.
6.50 News with subtitles.
6.55 Film: The Picture Show Man (1977) starring Rod Taylor and John Melford. The story of a picture show man who travels around the outback.
8.30 The Harry Hill Show. The guests are Harvey Smith, Sharon Davies, Harry Nagelszajn and Marya Kornblit.

4.15 Cartoon: Dangerousness and his aide Penfold fight the evil Baron Greenback.
4.20 Emma's World, with Rod Hull and his uncontrollable pet.
4.45 Ce-Chang 14. News, views and ideas for young people.
5.15 Emmerdale Farm. Jackie Merrick is becoming unpredictable.
5.45 News 6.00 Themes news.
6.20 Help! Vi Taylor Gee, in the second of three programmes on ecoblasts, talks about Accol, a community centre for the prevention and cure of the problem.
6.30 Crossroads. Carol Sands becomes a trainee mechanic.
6.55 Reporting London introduced by Denis Tuohy.
7.30 The Davidson Show. The popular comedian's guests are Bob Todd and Chas and Dave.
8.00 Don't Rock the Boat. Comedy series about a boatyard owner, his young wife and grown-up children.
8.30 Top of the World. Eamonn Andrews introduces another round of the international quiz.

9.00 News with John Humphrys.
9.25 Play for Today: Life After Death by Rachel Billington. A touching story about the first days of widowhood. We follow Meg Spence (Dorothy Tutin) from the time she registers her husband's death to the day of his funeral. Meg has three grown-up children by her side but they are going through crises of their own. It is through her friends, the priest and the doctor that she manages to cope with her dramatically changed life. But it is not all pathos — there are some humorous moments as well.
10.40 Don Williams in Concert. A recording of the country singer's performance at the New London Theatre.
11.23 News headlines.
11.25 American Attitudes. The first of a new series of four interviews with prominent Americans. Tonight Richard Kershaw talks to columnist, George Will.
11.55 Weather.

9.00 Pot Black: The fifth game in this snooker competition is between the holder, Cliff Thorburn of Canada and David Taylor, a former World Amateur Champion.
9.25 One Man and His Dog: The first round of the BBC television International Sheepdog Championship, introduced from the hills of the Rhineland by Phil Drabble.
10.05 Arena: Here They Kill People for It. Novelist D. M. Thomas traces the life of the Russian poet Osip Mandelstam who died in a prison camp in Siberia sometime during the 1930s.
10.50 Newsnight: Robin Denselow interviews Ghana's leader, Flt. Lt. Jerry Rawlings. Ends at 11.40.

9.00 Muck and Brass: Our Green and Pleasant Land. Tom Craig's plans to develop Spook's Hole is threatened by the illegal dumping of toxic waste. A child who falls off his bike is burnt by the waste and his parents take legal action. Mel Smith stars as the shifty entrepreneur, Tom Craig.
10.00 News.
10.30 Test Tube Explosion. A documentary about the development that brings hope to childless couples. For the first time, cameras are allowed into the Bourn Hall clinic to watch the work of the pioneers of the test tube method, Patrick Steptoe and Dr Bob Edwards.
11.30 Kaz. Our hero suspects that the judge who is presiding over his client's case is in need of a psychiatrist.
12.25 Close with Quentin Crisp.

● Television South's first networked documentary is on the highly controversial subject of test tube babies. In TEST TUBE EXPLOSION (ITV 10.30pm) the pioneering team of Steptoe and Edwards are interviewed at length and shown at work in Bourn Hall, their Cambridge clinic. Although the technique is bringing hope to many childless couples, disquiet is felt in some quarters and one such, Dr Michael Thomas, Chairman of the BMA Ethics Committee, is asked to commit to a moratorium on the test tube programme. One person who would disagree with Dr Thomas is Maria Curtis. She gave birth to a healthy girl in September after treatment at Bourn Hall and it is her case history which is followed in the programme. There is also exclusive film of the Caesarean birth of the first American test tube baby and news from Australia where there

have been fourteen successful births. What of the future? The freezing of animal embryos has been a success for the past nine years. Can the same technique, resulting in a human embryo bank, be successful? Will it be possible to clone humans? Steptoe and Edwards speak frankly of their aspirations.

● In ARENA (BBC2 10.05pm) D. M. Thomas traces the career of Russian poet Osip Mandelstam, considered by some to be one of the great poets of the 20th century. He died sometime during the 1930s in a Siberian prison camp where he was sent for publishing an ode to Stalin. Included in the programme are exclusive footage of an interview with his widow, Nadezhda, filmed

secretly in her Moscow flat in 1973. ● David Attenborough presents the first of a series of six part series entitled ANIMAL LANGUAGE (Radio 4 7.50pm). The series, which is split into thirteen-part halves — the latter half to be transmitted later in the year — explores the sophisticated auditory systems of communication between animals. Beginning with a four-month-old baby boy the programme illustrates how a helpless animal can communicate aid if needed by the simple process of making a noise — in the baby's case, by crying. Recordings of animal sounds are examined and explained, of what they mean and why the animal is making the noise are proffered. Later in the series there are visits to research establishments around the world to hear of the latest developments in the search to understand animals and to make the fairytale character of Dr Doolittle a reality.

Radio 4

6.00 News Briefing.
6.10 Farming Today.
6.25 Shipping Forecast.
6.30 Today.
6.35 Yesterday in Parliament.
6.00 News.
6.05 Yesterday call. Energy saving.
6.00 News.
6.05 From Our Own Correspondent.
6.10 News.
6.15 Morning Story: 'Dancing Class' by Susan Gregory.
11.00 News.
11.05 Thirty-Minute Theatre: 'Abide with Me' by Les Fidler.
11.35 The Twelve. Listener letters and suggested topics.
12.00 News.
12.05 Quota. Uniquely!
12.25 Weather: Programme News.
1.00 The World at One News.
1.40 The Archers.
1.55 Shipping Forecast.
2.00 News.
2.05 Woman's Hour.
3.00 News.
3.05 A Pair of Blue Eyes by Thomas Hardy (final part).
4.00 Places of Pilgrimage (40).
4.15 Children.
4.20 Investigation of a revolutionary new system of dealing with the world's problems.
4.45 Story Time: 'Mistral Rites' by Margaret Forster (7).
5.00 The News magazine.
6.00 News.
6.30 Never Too Late Thora Hind.
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 Medicine Now.
7.50 Animal Language Narrated by Peter Abrahams (1).
8.20 A Memoir of Uncle Fred. A portrait of Fred Gaby, a pioneer of gramophone recording.
9.05 Touch. Magazine for the blind.
9.30 Kaleidoscope.
10.00 The World Today News.
10.30 News.
10.35 Thelma Comedy series.

Radio 3

11.05 The Financial World Tonight.
12.00 News.
12.15 Shipping Forecast: Isobars Waters Forecast.
6.55 Weather.
7.00 News.
7.05 Morning Concert. Haydn, Handel, Scarlatti.
8.00 News.
8.05 Morning Concert. (continued).
8.10 News.
8.15 The Week's Composers. Alton and Marston records.
8.30 Piano Duets. Thomas Pleyel, Yo-Yo Ma, Paul Krumpholtz, Peter Bernard Stevens, Adrian W. Bana.
10.30 Chamber music recital.
11.10 Songs of Meisod, Brook and Rye. 12.00 News.
11.50 Northern Sinfonia Concert. Part 1: Berlioz, Mozart.
1.00 News.
1.05 Six Continents.
1.25 Northern Sinfonia. Part 2: Berlioz, Mozart.
2.15 Baroque Cantatas and Songs. Recital. Susan Harter, Cécile Pothol, Handel.
2.50 Music in a Historic Setting. Piano recital: Chopin, Schumann.
4.25 Jazz Today. Charles Fox with records.
4.55 News.
5.00 Music for Pleasure with Natalie Weiss.
7.00 Folk Tunes for Piano. Piano recital by David Owen Norris.
7.30 Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. Concert direct from the Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool. Part 1: Haydn, Edward Cowie (his concert for orchestra).

Radio 2

6.00 News.
6.05 Ray Moore. 7.30 Terry Wogan. 7.40 Jimmy Young. 12.00 Gloria Hunniford including 1.45 Sports Desk. 2.00 pm Sport Start including 2.45, 3.45 Sports Desk. 4.00 David Hamilton including 4.45 Sports Desk. 5.00 Sport Desk. 5.45, 6.00. John Dwyer including 6.45 Sports Desk. 6.00 The Golden Age of Hollywood. Paramount (the Lubich style). 9.00 Listen to the Music.
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12.05 Ray Moore. 7.30 Terry Wogan. 7.40 Jimmy Young. 12.00 Gloria Hunniford including 1.45 Sports Desk. 2.00 pm Sport Start including 2.45, 3.45 Sports Desk.

